

B.A.G.S. Newsletter

Brentham Allotments and Gardens Society

No.41

February 2017



A new year, a new look! The Trading Hut has had a revamp – tidier, the walls painted, totally re-organised. The aim is to make it much more welcoming and friendly – a social space as well as a trading point. By the time of the Spring opening, we plan to have installed solar powered lighting, facilities for brewing up tea and coffee and somewhere to sit and have a chat. So come along on relaunch day – Sunday March 19th - join us for free tea/coffee and biscuits and check it out.

What else is new? As far as BAGS itself is concerned Tessa Kostrzewa has taken over as Chair, Jane Fernley as Secretary and Sulagna Roy is looking after plot lettings and (with the help of husband Ganesh) the Brentham website – check out the updated site at - brentham-allotments.org.uk. New faces, new ideas! One completely new development is that the tenants of the nearby Cleveley Crescent allotment site (also managed by our site manager) have been offered BAGS membership and we hope to see much more of them in future.

So what are the plans for the coming year? In terms of Social Events – the key dates for your diary are:

Trading Hut Relaunch - Sunday 19th March.

**Spring Working Party (10-12) (with food and drink)
followed by New Tenants Welcome - Sunday 9th April**

Plant Sale Day - Sunday 14th May

Summer Social - Sunday 9th July

BAGS – AGM – Sunday 1st October

**Annual Rent Collection – Sundays 1st, 8th and 15th
October**

More details closer to the events but one area where your help would be greatly appreciated is when you are planting seeds, please put in some extra for Plant Sale day. If in doubt about what to grow, how many to plant etc., please have a word with Tessa, Sulagna or Ann Salaun who are coordinating this side of things. Remember - every little helps!

Ealing-in-Bloom

For the second year running, Brentham came third in the large allotment site category – out of a field of four rather than three this time! Chris Noble and Patrick Williams also gained “Commended” grades in the small and large allotment plot categories. Entry details for the 2017 competition will be

published in the Spring edition of the EAP-newsletter. Let's see if we can do even better this year.

Site Matters

Manure: Our normal supplier "Westway Stables" is currently closed and even when it reopens they will not be resuming deliveries – they have sold off their truck. Any ideas of possible alternative suppliers are very welcome but it looks as though free manure deliveries are a thing of the past.

Water Supply: The water will be switched back on towards the end of March. There are a few necessary repairs to be carried out before this happens and it would be very helpful if you could let either Patrick Williams or Antonio Pascoal know of any problems you know of concerning your local dip-tank. We will try to sort them out – but no promises!

Security:



Please lock the gates after you to help prevent:

**Theft
Vandalism
Fly Tipping**

Both Ascott (South Ealing) and our near neighbour Pitshanger have recently been subjected to raids by organized gangs targeting allotment machinery (rotavators, strimmers etc.) and scrap metal of all sorts. It is almost inevitable that we will be raided again. So, don't leave any machinery in your shed overnight!

We have had some problems over the winter with occasional break-ins by rough sleepers looking for somewhere to bed down for the night and raid any possible food/drinks stocks. Even more annoyingly, it is clear that we have a persistent internal thief who

seems to get a kick out of going through other people's sheds and appropriating anything that catches his eye. He will be caught and reported to the police.

We are working on these matters with security cameras being put up. However, the best advice is still – don't keep anything of value in your shed and always lock the site gates after you. The only time the main gate should be left open is 10-12 on Sundays to allow access of local residents to the Trading Hut when it is open for business.

Toilets: Delivery of the Composting Toilets has been delayed due to factors beyond our control but is now expected to take place in mid-March. Hopefully, they will be available for use fairly soon afterwards. The main toilets near the Trading Hut will continue to be available, when the water supply is connected during the main growing season.

Rubbish: We are currently working hard to clear the large pile of rubbish from the car park. So please no dumping of rubbish in the car park – or elsewhere around the site. Take it to the Greenford dump a short distance along the A40.

Projects and Working Parties

We are always looking for suggestions for new projects – large and small – to improve our site. Most potential improvements involve at least some skilled input and we are very keen to hear from anybody with plumbing and/or building experience. Once a project has been identified, and any necessary preparation work carried out, we usually still need peoplepower to complete it – as in our path building activities. Please talk to Site Manager Patrick Williams regarding any suggestions for projects or offers of specialized help and we hope to see as many of you as possible at our Spring Working Party (10-12) on Sunday 9th April.