

B.A.G.S. Newsletter

Brentham Allotments and Gardens Society

No.42

March 2017



SHOP OPENING

The Gala Opening of the Trading Hut and the accompanying tea/coffee and cake event went off extremely well as indicated in the photo montage opposite put together by Crystal Te Moananui-Squares. Special thanks are due to those who helped in the interior painting and reorganization of the hut, to Donald Power who designed and installed the solar lighting and to those who cooked the cakes that we all enjoyed. Don't forget – that while the cakes were a one-off treat for the re-opening of the hut, we now have facilities for boiling water and that coffee/tea and biscuits will be available, for buyers and non-buyers, whenever the hut is open.

The next social event, will be the “Spring Working Party” followed by the “New Plotolders Welcome” – which all working party attendees are welcomed to join - on Sunday April 9th. The working party will start at 10.00 am – meet outside the Trading Hut.

Current plans are to have groups working on a number of different tasks. One main activity, assuming that we can get all the necessary materials together, will be work on the extension of the south main path towards the side gate. Hopefully, we will get the siding boards in place so that the actual path can be laid at a later working party. Other tasks will be the replacement of the woodchip layer inside the Trading Hut compound - in preparation for Plant Sale Day - possibly linked to a restoration of a water supply to the Trading Hut; and the removal/control of the ivy engulfing the trees within the compound. Suggestions for other useful jobs should be directed to the Site Manager, Patrick Williams.

Spring Working Party

Sunday 9th April

10-12 noon

followed by

*“New Plotolders
Welcome”*

12 noon - 2.00

Other Site Matters

As you will no doubt have noticed, the water system has been switched back on. Antonio Pascoal has sorted out many of the minor problems regarding leaking and overflowing tanks and we have fitted taps, or are in the process of doing so, to those tanks that previously lacked them. Please note that the Council rule banning the attachment of hosepipes is still in place and this plus the use of pumps is strictly forbidden. If in doubt about what you can or cannot do, please speak to Patrick Williams. Any other problems about taps etc. – talk to Antonio; he is the expert!

The car park toilet block is open again following restoration of the water supply. Some minor repairs are needed – particularly to the flooring of the ladies loo. These will be sorted out in the near future. We are still awaiting the delivery of the new composting toilets but now have a “firm” date in early April.

The smooth day-to-day running of the Brentham site, relies very much on the time and efforts of a large number of unpaid volunteers. Currently, there are a number of areas where you may be able to help out. The first, and most obvious, is by supporting the working parties we organize – no special skills required. That said - we are always looking for volunteers with particular skills,

Dates for Your Diary

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

plumbing, building, etc., who are willing to help out with more specialized projects/repairs around the site. If you feel that you can help out in anyway please contact Patrick.

The second area where everybody can help out is the more general one of path maintenance. We are all responsible for the paths bordering our plots. It would be particularly helpful if those with plots next to the more recently laid main paths could take on responsibility for ensuring that grass and weeds do not re-establish themselves in these paths. Two much more specific areas where help would be appreciated are: could anybody with any spare old dexian angle iron – useful in path construction – pass it on to Patrick; and please don't forget to grow extra plants for Plant Sale Day on Sunday 14th May!

Check out the updated Brentham Allotments website <http://www.brentham-allotments.org.uk/> We think it looks pretty good –how about you? All comments, ideas for new features etc., welcome