

# Fairfield Allotments

## Newsletter 13 – April 2007

**The 66th Annual General Meeting:** took place as scheduled on 20<sup>th</sup> February and was again a well attended event - thank you to all those who turned out.

**The Farmers Arms**, where the meeting was held, and where committee meetings are normally held, is closing for 3 to 4 months for refurbishment and the meeting was passed a letter from the Tenant/Manageress about re locating future meetings, she passed on her best wishes.

After agenda business a lively debate ensued, with voices of concern, about security, from female and male members, about "Locking the gate" it was generally accepted that a common sense approach be adopted by all members, rather than create a new rule, towards securing the allotments against intruders. That members should be encouraged to lock the gate behind them after entering and leaving the allotments. As ever, reports of vandalism and theft, of aluminium from deconstructed greenhouses, was raised from the floor and it was confirmed that each and every incident should be reported to the Police and / or a community support officer. By doing this our documented incident rate would compel the authorities to increase patrol vigilance on Fairfield Allotments.

The very dry summer of 2006 caused water usage on the plots to nearly double which in consequence increased the associations' water bill dramatically. The secretary reiterated the need for all members to try and collect water on their plot and to help this he announced that we will soon take delivery of 50 plastic water storage barrels, with taps, which are being donated by **The Water Harvesting Project** and will be available on a first come basis, but priority will be

given for those plot holders that currently have no barrel storage to catch rainwater. You can collect these on **Saturday 21st April 2007 at 2pm** A longer term solution to water self sufficiency is being investigated and may become part of our strategy when planning the funds to manage the expected increase in plots available to rent.

John Lambert gave a brief update about the proposed extension to Fairfield Allotments. There's a strong chance that this will happen sometime in 2008 and we'll end up with about a dozen or so new full plots (24 half plots) and improved vehicular and disabled access with some raised beds and quarter plots, for beginners.

We currently have a waiting list of around 60, and there are 4 half plots being re-let as I write. If you're giving up your plot please tell John Lambert this helps with the prompt re-letting of plots. The committee will begin their first inspection of the state of plots on **Saturday 21st April** at 3pm.

Emma Grover has stepped down from the committee this year. *Thank you Emma for all your hard work.* Your committee remains the same except we welcome a new committee member.

Your committee is :

**Chairman:** Roy Stephenson

**Secretary:** John Lambert, 6 Carr House Lane, Lancaster LA1 15W  
Tel: Tel. 01524 849371  
[john@jlambert.f9.co.uk](mailto:john@jlambert.f9.co.uk)

**Treasurer:** George Burnett, 94 Westbourne Road, Lancaster LA1 5JX Tel. 01524 62585  
Caroline Eames, Gillian Allen, Jon Barry, John Weedy & Sid Duncan

If any member does feel like helping out with the committee, or

just coming to the meetings, you will be welcome.

Committee meetings are held at **The Water Witch Pub** on *Thursdays (about every 2 months)*  
**Meeting Dates for the coming year:** 29.03.07, 03.05.07, 05.07.07, 06.09.07, 10.01.08, 14.02.08

**Have you paid your Allotment rent yet?** If you haven't the rent is now overdue so send in the money **ASAP** to The Treasurer, George Burnett, 94 Westbourne Road, Lancaster,

### Seasonal tips

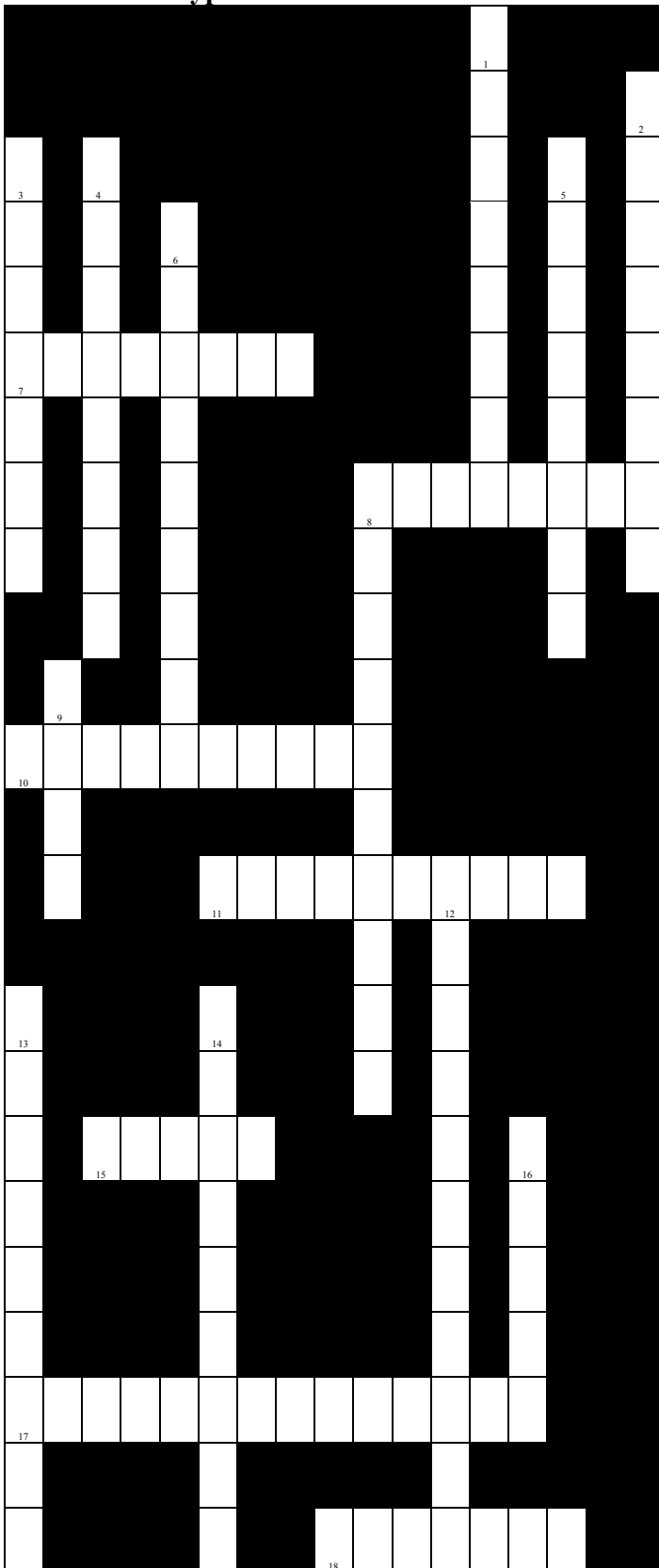
On the web? Try this site <http://www.kitchengarden.co.uk/forum/viewforum.php?f=3> for a very varied question and answers about growing veg and fruit.

**Place growbags in the greenhouse to warm up**

Sow Outdoors - Beetroot and turnip, Peas and broad beans, Kale, Broccoli, Kohl rabi, Brussels sprouts, Leeks, Cabbage, Lettuce, Carrots, spinach and perpetual spinach, Chard, Radish

Work out a rotation plan - keep your crops moving round the plot; to grow the same crop family in the same place year after year is to build up a reservoir of disease and pests.

## Allotment Cryptic PRIZE Crossword



### CLUES ACROSS

7. Flying mouse manure 3,5
8. A French climber 4,4
10. A tuber ruler, perhaps 4,6
11. A hairy hanger on, perhaps 10
15. Malling ..... most popular raspberry 5
17. A hardy type of salad component 7,7
18. <http://www.fairfield-allotments.co.uk> 7

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 A small Netherland laugh, maybe 5,3
  - 2 Could be a mangetout 5,3
  3. You could make a fool of this 7
  4. A little salad man maybe 3,5
  5. White or purple 3,5
  6. It can save your crop 5,4
  8. A black fly attraction 5,5
  9. A colourful sweetener perhaps 4
  12. French carrot, soon? 5,6
  13. Do they cause colourful tears 3,6
  14. An amazing vegetable 5,4
  16. A Scandinavian citizen 5
- (The first correctly filled in crossword sent to John Weedy will win a prize)**

### Notices

**Fairfield Funday** July 7<sup>th</sup> -we shall be taking a stall at again this year and having a miniature garden and animal vegetables competition. If you are prepared to give an hour (or less) of your time to help run the stall please let John Weedy know. Also we shall be looking for donations of veg, fruit or flowers, sweet peas go really well, for sale on the stall – every little helps raise funds for the association. We are also considering best **Scarecrow** on a plot to be judged on the day by the public – they pay £1 which also goes into a prize draw

**Fairfield Allotments Best kept Plot competition** will also be judged on July 7<sup>th</sup>

**Fairfield Food - a Gluttons guide (to be sold on Funday)**

What's your favourite recipe for the veg that you grow? Have you got a special family recipe that you're willing to share? What about any unusual uses for veg?

Drawings, photos, quotes, poems..anything in fact that we can include in our recipe book. We need your contributions make this happen, <http://www.fairfield-allotments.co.uk/Fairfield-Allotments/cookbook.html>

**The Seed scheme** will continue again for the 2007/08 season

**8x 6 ft greenhouse frame** urgently required – with or without the glass. We had our frame stolen, as we were storing it outside our allotment shed, prior to constructing it.  
*Amanda Bannon c/o Sheila & Mike Bannon, Plot 16a Tel 01524 388289*

**Manure** delivered by trailer load. Phone *Stuart Taylor* 0152-67446 (please check ground conditions on delivery day)

**Hire of a SKIP for a day in May** is being organised so members can clear plots of non compostable rubbish – this is costly and we hope to get money contributions from members on the day – more info to come.

**RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate**

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlowcarr/index.asp> has been suggested for a mini bus trip day out – A volunteer is needed to be the organiser? John Lambert will drive (and has the licence/certificate) but is too busy to organise the trip

**An Allotments Summer BarBBQ** is being contemplated we need ideas and volunteers to discuss

**Articles or comments for publication in the next Newsletter.** Send to John Weedy, 10 Sibsey Street, Lancaster LA1 5DF - Tel.01524 60131 [j.weedy@iln.org.uk](mailto:j.weedy@iln.org.uk)  
We're on the Web! [www.fairfield-allotments.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-allotments.co.uk)