

fairfield allotments

newsletter 23 January 2011

Rents 2011:

With this newsletter you will have received the rent demand for 2011. There will be, as most years, a small increase in rent this season. £1 on a full plot and 50p on both halves and quarters.

We are still negotiating the new lease with the council. This will allow us to use more of the rent for site improvements. Until the new lease is signed we need to make sure we raise sufficient funds to cover the allotment costs.

We have volunteers for all officers of the committee at the AGM. If there are any other nominations please contact the secretary prior to the meeting.

Hope to see you at the AGM and best wishes for the new season.

John

Secretary, Fairfield Allotment Holders Association

AGM

71st AGM - 2011

The Borough, Dalton Square

(upstairs private room)

Tuesday Feb 08th

7.30 PM

All are welcome...



projects

When we sign the new lease this year we will be able to start using some of the rents collected for improvements to the site. The two most obvious and necessary jobs are replacing much of our water storage system and making improvements to the tracks where they get rutted and damaged. This work may take a few seasons to fully complete.

If there are further improvements you would like to see on the plots please let a committee member know.

communication

To make contact easier please let us have your email address (if you have one) on your rent return.

Don't forget our website & forum...

www.fairfield-allotments.co.uk

bees

The following (and image) is taken from this website:

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/save_the_bees/?cl=895565137&v=8114

You can sign an e-petition on the website:

Quietly, globally, billions of bees are dying, threatening our crops and food. But a global ban of one group of pesticides could save bees from extinction.

*Four European countries have begun banning these poisons, and some bee populations are recovering. But chemical companies are lobbying hard to keep all killer pesticides on the market. **A global outcry now for a ban in the US and EU, where debate is raging, could provoke a total ban and a ripple effect around the world.***

Let's build a giant global buzz calling for these dangerous chemicals to be outlawed in the US and EU until and unless they are proved to be safe.

fundraising

Congratulations and thank you to all those over the year that have contributed to our fundraising efforts by helping out, organizing, giving time, growing stuff, buying stuff & donating. This includes Funday, The Surplus Sale, Rent Donations, Seed Scheme, the Shopping Bag and Christmas Cards.

This year has been our most successful year to date raising well over £1000 to add to our improvements and maintenance funds.



tracks & driving

As the thaw has come and the rains are back the tracks are once again becoming waterlogged. Please can we urge all plot holders **not to** drive vehicles onto the plots when the tracks are in this condition. Vehicles should **only** be brought onto the plots for essential delivery or removal of bulky materials and when the tracks are dry and firm.

potato day(s)

If you are interested in trying out some different potato varieties this year and haven't ordered them yet then there are two Potato Days coming up.

lancaster

The Friends Meeting House on Meeting House Lane. Saturday 29th Jan from 12-3.

skelmersdale

Sunday 6th Feb at Woodley Park Centre, Woodley Park Road, Ashurst, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UQ.

Further details of both can be found on our website - www.fairfield-allotments.co.uk

committee

Your committee meets every other month on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in The Borough, Dalton Square. Proposed dates for the coming year are: 24.03.11 (site), 05.05.11, 07.07.11, 08.09.11 (site), 05.01.12, 02.02.12 AGM

Your allotment committee:

Nomination for Chair: Manjeet Lamba

Secretary: John Lambert,

6 Carr House Lane,

Lancaster LA1 1SW

01524 849371

secretary@fairfield-allotments.co.uk

Treasurer: George Burnett,

94 Westbourne Road,

Lancaster LA1 5JX

01524 62585

Members: Gillian Allen, Mike Brandwood, Caroline Eames, Catherine Fatkin, Ian Fraser, Anne Stewardson and John Weedy.

Newsletter: Helen Bennett

safety structures, water 'features', tools & children in no particular order!

1. Some structures on the site (Sheds, greenhouses etc.) are starting to either show signs of wear and tear, or are looking downright dangerous! Please can members either remove damaged structures or spend sometime getting them into good repair. If you need some help please get in touch with the committee and we'll see if we can help organise some.

2. There are a number of plots with ponds/standing water that are uncovered; these are dangerous both to young children and wildlife such as hedgehogs. Please can you make sure these are covered with strong grids and have at least one sloping side for animals to crawl out? Yes, for those of you that are saying there shouldn't be young children on my plot, you are right members should not allow children under 16 onto the plots unsupervised, but it is very easy for anyone to wander on when the gates are left unlocked.

3. Now's also a good time to look after and service your tools to make sure they are all in good order for the rest of the season. It's one of those jobs you can do as the rain hammers on your shed roof...I really must fix that leak!