

# ***Horfield and District Allotments Association***

## ***Newsletter Spring 2017***

### **AGM 2017**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February about 30 members of the Association and Committee members gathered at the Good Shepherd hall for the 2017 AGM of H&DAA.

#### **The Chairman**

Reported on the changes in the BCC Allotments Office as Steve Clampin moves on to pastures new and his role is taken over by Janet Hathway.

He spoke of the Community Garden which is now paying its' own way and is thriving. More Friends would be welcome and anyone using Tesco, Golden Hill can use the customer service box to ensure a donation.

HDAА has its' centenary this year and lots of activities are planned.

#### **The Treasurer,**

Brian Styles presented the accounts. He compared HDAА's rents to those of BCC:

- 10 perch HDAА £45, BCC £80;
- 5 perch HDAА £22.50, BCC £45;
- 2.5 perch HDAА £11.25, BCC £25.

The work of volunteers allows us to keep rents low and ensures that work such as the restoration of our historic hedges, can be done. We have had £35000 from BCC over the last few years (from the sale of Council allotment land) but there is unlikely to be more money from this source though it may be possible to claim funding for specific projects which meet BCC's criteria. We will need to plan on using our reserves to maintain and manage the sites. The solar tower of power continues to reduce water bills on Golden Hill. Rents have been paid promptly this year and HDAА is in a healthy financial position.

#### **Community Garden Report:**

given by Pete Clee

- The Community Garden has had its' 5th birthday – an achievement as most lottery funded projects end when the money runs out. It is now self-funding and finances are healthy.
- The shows and bonfire events have been terrific and successful raising over £6000 this year
- Volunteer days are busy with always at least 20 attending and there were 113 new volunteers last year. There are now 2 sessions of Golden Buds playgroup with a waiting list and an after school club.
- The CG is now registered as a Community Interest Company which among other advantages allows the groups to be Ofsted registered
- The family activity days (for families who have a child with SEN) have been extremely popular and more are planned. Sponsorship has been obtained from Quartet and the Police

- £1200 has been obtained from the Lottery to pay for play workers at the Spring Fair
- The Bale House is to be painted; there will be new compost bins and a better path around the pond.
- Pete thanked all for financial and other help. Over £500 pounds came in as donations with the rents.

**HDAА Centenary Celebrations:** Jeremy Iles who is the coordinator spoke as follows: "We are pleased to announce that we have secured a small grant to help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of our allotments – which were established in 1917.

The grant – from the Heritage Lottery Fund – will enable us to run a community history project to gather memories and stories about the allotments and what they mean to us and the wider community." There will be a launch event, research into archives, oral history seminars, 5 minutes books, photographic and audio archives and displays. Feedback and ideas would be welcome. Volunteers will be central to this and if you have memories, anecdotes, photos and/or would like to be involved in research or any other aspect of the celebrations here are contact details:

Pete Clee 0117 9756647

[100hdaa@gmail.com](mailto:100hdaa@gmail.com)



#### **Presentation of prizes:**

The Chair introduced Phyllis Brooks who presented the prizes. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ted Hill cup (for plot holder making the most progress in the 1st year of tenancy January 2014-2015) was awarded to Tim and Jane-Marie Mahy 29a Birchall

Field prizes (new tenants who have made good progress):

Rose Humphreys 11a Davis

Sam Pommery 16 Grahams

Lindsay and the late Robert Jones 62 St Agnes

Vince Laporta 25a Longs

The Phyllis Brooks award for outstanding service to the Association was awarded to Sally Newberry for her work as field rep on Birchall

### H&DAA on Facebook

Our Facebook page continues to flourish  
To join Horfield and District Allotment Association Chat search Facebook for the title, follow the link on the H&DAA website, or go directly to [www.facebook.com/groups/handdaa](http://www.facebook.com/groups/handdaa)  
The group is open to any allotment holders in the Association fields, and is for allotment related chat, questions, swaps and sharing.

## General News

### Election of officers

At the March committee meeting the following officers were elected:

Chairman: Neil Pirie.  
Deputy Chairman: Pete Clee  
Treasurer: Brian Styles  
Secretary: Marjorie McCartney

### Notices

#### Work Parties Golden Hill

Hedging work is on hold for the summer after the completion of the Baptist hedge renovation and maintenance on the Baptist/Davis border which is looking amazing. We are grateful to The Woodland Trust for their continuing support in the supply of saplings, saving us considerable expense.

Watch notice boards for the resumption of work in the autumn.

**Resolutions for AGM 2018 should be submitted to the secretary before the December committee meeting (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>)**

### Plot inspections – June

Please make sure that your plot number is visible

### Who to contact:

**Organic compost**, £5.0 a barrow: - Pete 975 6647  
**Change address, lost key, give up plot, have a friend helping who would like to join as a member:** Christine  
**Something for the web site:** Marjorie  
**Everything else:** your field rep

**Building Permission:** If you wish to erect ANY kind of structure (polytunnel, shed, pond, gazebo etc) please consult your field rep before proceeding.

### Know what's happening in:

**H&DAA:** <http://horfieldanddistrictallotments.webeden.co.uk>  
**HOCO:** [www.community-orchard.org.uk](http://www.community-orchard.org.uk)  
**GHCG:** [www.thegoldenhillcommunitygarden.com](http://www.thegoldenhillcommunitygarden.com)

### Ashley Down Shop –

For all gardening supplies  
Open to H&DAA members  
Saturday & Sunday: 10.30am – 12md  
[Foot of Station Road]

**Associate Members:** Several members have not paid their annual subscription for 2017. If you are one of these, but you wish to continue as a member of the Association, send your £5.00 to H&DAA, 14 Stadium Rd. Bristol, BS6 7YE. If we do not hear from you by the end of June we will assume you have retired and will not send you any more newsletters. This does not apply to plot holders who have paid rent; your sub is included in your rent bill.

**Reduced Rents:** If you are in receipt of a means tested benefit you may be entitled to a rent reduction. Applications must be processed by the City Council. To obtain an application form visit BCC web site, see your Field Rep or call Christine on 3301639. It is important that you do this before the end of August, don't leave it until your rent bill arrives.

### Email addresses

If you have received this newsletter by post this is for one of three reasons:

1. You have requested a paper copy.
2. We don't have your email address.
3. The email address we have is incorrect.

We will only send you allotment/Community Garden related mail.

If you would like to be on our mailing list send your address to: [christine\\_styles@hotmail.com](mailto:christine_styles@hotmail.com)

## We say this every year but...

**Bonfires-** It is now closed season

Burning issues must wait until November

**No dumping** anything on the Community Garden compost bins at the car park (NOR taking any residual compost until further notice).

**Toilet** at car park Golden Hill, PLEASE shut the door & keep clean & tidy.

**Petrol strimmers** 10-12am, and 4-6pm only at weekends and bank holidays: any time during the week, with a recommendation that 30 minutes should be the limit.

## Bee Keeping

Due to concern about capacity and uncertainty regarding the spread of European Foul Brood there will be no further applications considered this year for new/additional hives other than those already in the system.

## From our Field Reps

**Plot Numbers:** When we had a quick walk around the field we noticed that many plots do not have plot number signs or legible ones. Please can you make sure that your plot has one before June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It is important for us to be able to determine the plot numbers particularly when we are reporting incidents to the police. It is also part of your responsibility as a tenant.

### **Kids on Birchall**

Unfortunately this winter we have had increasing problems with teenagers on the allotment drinking and smoking in polytunnels, sheds and benches. They have not caused any damage but have left rubbish, broken into sheds and have been rude and unpleasant. The teenagers are not related to tenants and so should not be there. We have reported the incidents to the police and the local PCSO, Joe has contacted residents on Birchall Road to ask them to report any teenagers on the field. Several have been caught and told not to gather there. We have also involved Cotham and Redland Green School. If you have any concerns please phone 101 and report them to the police and let us know via email or phone.

### **More Kid's on plots**

If your children accompany you to your plot please could you make sure that their activities are confined to the area of your own plot.

There are many tempting distractions such as climbable trees on the site but these may be someone's fruit trees and could easily be damaged. We would not expect to have free access to the gardens of the houses in our street, the same consideration applies to allotment plots.

### **Parking Longs Field**

Please be aware that the lane accessing the pedestrian gate to Longs field is not a vehicular access and should not be used to park cars for any reason.

## **H&DAA 100**

We held our official launch of our community history project on 22nd April in the Balehouse, in the community garden.

Jeremy Iles, Phil Hopkins and Lia Leendertz have been ferreting away in the city archives and came up with some fascinating detail about the history of our sites, which we were able to put on display, and we were pleased to welcome upwards of 50 people who came to have a look and share some of their memories with us.

Many thanks to our volunteer posties, who delivered close to 1000 leaflets to those houses in the immediate vicinity of our sites, and which prompted several neighbours and former plot holders to attend. Jeremy and I were interviewed by Martin Evans from Radio Bristol for the Ali Vowles show, and I have subsequently done more interviews with Laura Rawlings

Our next stage in the process will be to interview those people with stories to tell, and to produce something tangible, both in digital and physical formats.

Meanwhile you can keep up with our progress, or contact us at [greenfutures.org.uk/hdaa](http://greenfutures.org.uk/hdaa), [email100hdaa@gmail.com](mailto:email100hdaa@gmail.com), on twitter at [horfieldallotments](https://twitter.com/horfieldallotments), or on our group Facebook page at H&DAA, or directly to me at [peteclee@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:peteclee@blueyonder.co.uk). It used to be just a phone number!!

## **Plot holders, their family, and friends** are invited to celebrate **Horfield Organic Community Orchard**

at our next two community events.

**Mid-Summer Orchard Open Day** - part of the Get Fruit Growing weekend

### **Saturday 17 June, 2017, 1 - 5pm**

Enjoy an afternoon exploring Bristol's pioneering community orchard. Set up in 1998, and cared for by members, who are volunteers. HOCO aims to inspire fruit growing as a way to grow community, wellbeing, and local, sustainable food. Come and see our newly planted **Home Orchard Plot** project – a mini orchard with a 10 x 4 metre footprint. Be inspired to grow productive and delicious fruit on your allotment or garden. See our **Orchard Roots Bristol** exhibition for stories of local and heritage apples. Find out how a small community group transformed a piece of marginal and neglected land into a beautiful, fruitful urban oasis.

- The relaxed nature of this event gives us time to answer your fruit growing questions.
- Homemade cakes, refreshments, produce and plants for sale.
- Join the orchard in June and share in this year's harvest!

### **Apple Day**

**Sunday 22 October, 2017, 2 - 4pm**

- Featuring our wonderful Apple Tasting Table – with more than 20 varieties to sample.
- Learn how we planned our **Home Orchard Plot**.
- Make juice, and make merry with the local **Pigsty Morris** team.

*volunteers.*

**Finally A big Thank you**  
**to all our plot holders who took the**  
**opportunity to donate to the Community**  
**Garden when paying their rent bill.**  
**You raised over £500.**