

Horfield & District Allotments Association Newsletter

January 2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday February 9th

Hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd
(Between Bishop Road and Kings Drive)

Tea and Coffee available from 7.00pm
Meeting begins at 7.30pm

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM (Will be tabled)
3. Matters Arising
4. Report from the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee.
5. Annual accounts and Treasurer's report.
6. Resolution (see below)
7. Election of H&DAA Company Directors.
8. Community Garden report
9. BCC Allotments Officer
10. Presentation of Ted Hill Cup, the Phyllis Brooks Award & Best New Plot Awards.

Resolution to be presented at AGM

Rent resolution:

The Committee has reviewed the Association's long term rent policy and proposes that the charge per perch be increased by 20 pence in each of the next five years, 2016-2020. The proposal will increase the rent for a large (10 perch) plot from the current £41 to reach £51 in 2020. This proposed rent for 2020 will still be below that currently charged by Bristol City Council for a similarly sized plot.

Prizes

As you will see from the agenda above there are prizes to be won. In case you are new to H&DAA here is what they are for:

Ted Hill Cup, to the new tenant who has made the most progress in the first year of tenancy.

Phyllis Brooks Award: to a plot holder who has made an outstanding contribution to the benefit of their field.

Best on Field: a small prize for the best new tenant on each field.

Come to the meeting – join the debate

A Happy and fruitful New Year to all our Members

Dear Member,

As you can see it is AGM time again. Our Chairman will again give us a full round up of the year's events but here are some of the highlights:

The Golden Hill site has acquired an additional water tank at the top of Baptist to double the amount of water stored from the solar pump operation. This reduced consumption in 2014 by 69%, compared with the previous year, resulting in a fall of cost from £809 to £303. This despite an increase in both the price per cubic metre and in the standing charge.

Golden Hill also has a newly resurfaced hauling way through Baptist/St Agnes. At least until it settles could tenants having manure delivered by the load please protect the hauling way with a tarpaulin to avoid shoveling up the road surface with the manure.

All the fields continue to improve at a steady pace both in the quality of infrastructure and the cultivation of plots. Occupancy remains high and we still have long waiting lists.

You may have noticed that we didn't have an **annual show** last year. Did anyone miss it? If so come to AGM and lobby for its reinstatement.

When I asked the Field reps what they would like included in the newsletter it was no surprise that the usual suspects were requested. So as briefly as possible:

Please don't bring rubbish on to the sites, it is incredibly expensive (and often unpleasant) to get rid of.

Don't have bonfires that could in any way spoil someone else's day.

Please display your plot number, it is at the top of your rent bill, in case you have forgotten it.

If you see anyone behaving suspiciously please let your field rep or your local police team know. There have been some break-ins on /Grahams Telecom recently.

As you are sitting over Christmas dreaming of next year's bumper crops remember you can use:

Ashley Down Allotments Association Store :Station Rd
(off Ashley Down Road) Open Saturdays and Sundays
10.30am-12 Noon (Except Xmas/New Year period)

Now in:- Onion sets, garlic and shallots

For Spring planting. Store in cool/dry place

•Sturon(round), 90p per pound

•Stuttgarter (flat) 90p per pound

•Piroska (red) 90p per pound

•Golden shallots 120p per pound

Garlic Thermidron 45p per bulb plant Nov-Feb

Seed potatoes available from mid-late January.

Other seeds/garden supplies at very good prices.

For more details go to:

<http://horfieldanddistrictallotments.webeden.co.uk>

You can also get all the latest on what's happening in H&DAA and where to access manure etc.

For those of you who patronised Mr Hanham his business has now been passed on to Pete, tel. 07900980935.

For small tool repairs see local blacksmith Fred Brodnax in Somerville Rd,

914 7566 www.bristolblacksmith.co.uk

Working parties

Golden Hill: Every Sunday morning 10.00am – 12md until the end of January. The hedge team is back in action

with an ambitious program for the winter. You can join the team & learn about laying, planting and maintaining hedges.

You will not be charged for the privilege. The work will be along the top of Baptist Field

Wear good boots & gloves.

Birchall This winter we are hoping to hold a working party, or possibly two, to do a bit of field maintenance on Birchall.

We would like to trim the right hand side of the main haulingway, clear back the edges of the large bramble patch in the centre of the field and trim back plum suckers, drilling and salt treating the remaining stumps at the top corner. This means we need a volunteer with good bonfire skills, and several people with trimmers/sickles/handscythes/loppers/rakes and wheelbarrows.

We are keeping two dates for the work **Saturdays Feb. 7th and 14th**. It would probably be a 10.30 start, but we can confirm this nearer the date.

Could anyone interested in volunteering please email newberry_sally@yahoo.co.uk to let me know- I can then easily get back to you if necessary with any last minute changes that may come up.

There is a **vacancy for a Field Rep** on Birchall, the job is not onerous and is well supported by fellow reps. If you are interested contact Sally.

Community Garden

If you've been past the community garden recently you'll have seen our gorgeous straw bale building is built and nearly ready to be hired out for meetings and kids parties. Feel free to come down and have a nose around any Wednesday or Saturday. We'll also be buying in another bulk load of organic compost in February, get in touch with Pete Clee to buy some barrow loads and get your beds off to a good and wholesome start. This winter we are also expanding and building new raised beds that can be used by individuals. So if a whole plot is proving to be too much to manage then get in touch or speak to Pete about how these new raised beds down by the car park by the Monk Rd entrance will be made available.

Also we'll be celebrating our 3rd birthday and all our achievements on **Saturday Feb 7th** probably with cake and a bonfire and it'll be great chance to come down for a chat and see what we've been up to. If you'd like to get regular updates from the garden by email then let me know at ghcgarden@gmail.com or call on 07506 905 394."

All are welcome to Wassail Horfield Organic Community Orchard

Saturday 17 January 2015, 2 - 4pm

Toast the orchard for a fruitful harvest

Bring ribbons, clouties and shining things to dress the trees

Homemade cakes and mulled Orchard juice for sale

Make merry with Pigsty Morris

Apple trees for sale

Do you want to learn more about fruit growing? We are now open for new people to join us as harvest-share members or supporting friends. Find out more at the Wassail.

To find the Orchard (nearest postcode BS7 8JP) walk down the lane beside 22 Kings Drive (between Bishop Road and Kellaway Avenue), turn left and it's the first gate on the right. OR take the lane beside 134 Longmead Avenue until you come to the last gate on the left.

Contact: hocohello@gmail.com

phone: 0117 373 1587

<http://www.community-orchard.org.uk>