



Summer Newsletter

Welcome to summer, as I write this the rain is lashing down and the wind blowing a gale! Still, this is what makes allotmenting such a challenge. In a few weeks it should be baking hot and the plants needing water. Before we reach that point may I remind everyone that the RHS website, linked to ours, gives invaluable advice on what to water, when and how. Watering unnecessarily and often incorrectly is a waste of time, water and in some cases won't improve your crop but just wash the leaves.

Walking round the site the majority of plots are looking good, as they should be for early summer. We are judging Southbourne Allotments this year, they won the best site in Bournemouth last year and our judges commented, having done the first round of marking that they understand why. The second round is judged between 10th and 15th July followed by the Council officers deciding on best plot and best site. Can we give Southbourne a run for the cup and have a go at winning it back? To do this we need every-one to ensure their edges and any opposite their plots for those on the perimeter, to be weed free and looking tidy. Some plot holders are very good at this and the committee thank them, others not so.

Our Summer Show is planned for Sunday, 13th August. As in other years the centre car parks will have the tents put up on Saturday 12th. Volunteers welcome to help with putting up on Saturday from 9.00 am (about an hour) and taking down on Sunday at approximately 4 pm.

Pete and Sylv. would like tombola prizes at any time from now. These can be left with Paul or any committee member. Surplus fruit and veg to Roy and Sue on Sunday morning at the latest. Cakes on Sunday please to go with the teas etc. Additional volunteers are always welcome to help please see Paul or Doff on site.

Members BBQ tickets on sale from 15th July, advance £1.60 up to 6th Aug. on the day £2.50.

The show schedule is as last year; copy on notice board and on website soon. Show entries on Sunday morning from 10.00 up to 11.30 for judging at 12.00. Please go to site hut to complete the entry paperwork before bringing your entries to the show tent in the picnic area. As always advice and guidance on how to stage is available.

A few reminders

Summer Show Sunday 13th August; restricted parking on site up to 4.00pm

Dog fouling on site; this is not acceptable, please clear up after your dog. Any dog on site must be on a lead or confined to the owners plot. We are one of the few sites who permit dogs, please don't spoil it for the others, please clear up after your dog and stick to the rules.

Toilets; please treat this facility as you would in your own home. Do I need to say more?

Water butts/tanks; when you use these to collect water, please remember to turn the tap on and refill for the next person. Also please replace the lid after use. The committee are aware that some taps no longer reach the tanks and will be looking at this a.s.a.p.

The gate and padlock; once again I am reminding you that leaving the padlock unlocked is not sensible for the security of the site. The key is needed to ensure the padlock is locked. The bolt must be dropped and the bar slid across for the padlock to be secured. There is a notice on the gate reminding of this. We do seem to have a few persistent members who don't seem to find this necessary. I feel sure that when they leave their own homes they lock up properly; please will they do this for the site?

Speed; it has been brought to my attention that a reminder is necessary to all those who have been practising on site for this seasons Formula 1 Grand Prix; we have a 10 mph speed limit. This applies to all vehicles unless they are emergency response, hopefully not on site having to deal with injuries caused to members by speeding cars. Thank you.

Finally; we have a **working week-end Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June.** 9.00 – 12.00 both days. As much or as little time as you can spare for weeding, hedge cutting, general tidying etc. even 15 minutes of weeding is a help. It would be good to see a few new faces helping out along with the usual stalwarts. Bring gloves and a smile.

Happy Growing

Doff