

HOTWELLS & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Registered under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 Registered No: 6359R.

Registered Office: 2 Kennel Lodge Road, Bower Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2JT

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our October Newsletter. This newsletter's primary message is the calling notice for our Annual General Meeting in January but there's lots of other items as well.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The old laminated membership cards are now no longer valid. If you need to prove your membership such as when buying plants from Riverside Garden centre, use the proof of membership slip that was included at the bottom of this year's invoice. Of course you need to print the slip off so if you haven't got access to a printer go to the website downloads page (www.hwdaa.co.uk/downloads.htm) and you will find a link to a simple form to fill in where you can choose how the proof of membership slip is delivered to you.

INVOICES FOR 2018-19

These all went out between September 24th and 27th. If you haven't got yours please contact the Treasurer soonest.

SAVING WATER

The drought conditions this summer and the subsequent high water usage have highlighted the need for us to collect and conserve water wherever we can. Whilst doing our plot inspections over the past weeks it was apparent there are many sheds without any form of water collection system. We would urge everyone to set up water collection systems however primitive so we all do our bit to conserve resources. We are investigating if we can acquire water butts from the council which we will distribute to site reps. We propose to include this element in our checklist for plot inspections going forward. Thank you for your help.

There's also a page on saving water on the website.

Roger Coffin

Chairman

Note by Treasurer: The last water bill (paid this week) for Alderman Moore was **£1317.83**



GROWING TIP

For sometime I've been aware of *mycorrhizal fungi* to encourage root growth (thanks to Monty Don). It works like this – the plant captures the energy coming from the sun by means of its chlorophyll and supplies it to the fungus, and the fungus supplies water and mineral nutrients taken from the soil to the plant. This year I decided to try it on my over wintering brassicas. And it's a game changer. The new plants shot up looking extremely healthy despite the lack of rain. So I can but recommend it if you want your young plants to get off to a good start. It can be bought at any garden centre. It's relatively expensive but it goes a long way as one pack should last a complete growing season. The pack includes full instructions and

small plastic spoon to use when sowing plants.

Bob (KL1 Annex 6)

2019 AGM

The 2019 AGM will be held on Saturday 5TH January 2019 at Alderman Moore Shop starting at 14:00 sharp. The agenda is as shown below.

1. Welcome and In Memoriam..
2. To approve the minutes of the AGM held on 7th January 2018
3. To consider any matters arising from those minutes unless on this agenda.
4. Presentation of awards by the President: (The Harry Green Shield for the best kept plot and The Eric Grimes Cup for the best newcomer).
5. Chair's report.
6. Treasurer's report and presentation of HwDAA accounts for the year ending 30 September 2018.
7. To vote on the audit of the 2017/18 accounts.
8. To approve the 2017/18 accounts.
9. Notice of plot rents with effect from 1 October 2019.
10. Election of President.
11. Election of Tom Ward as Treasurer
12. Election of remaining Committee Officers to an agreed maximum.
13. Updating Rules - progress
14. Any Other Business

A note on item 7 above:

This is mainly for recently new tenants. You will see from our letter heads and emails that we are "Registered under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014" This means we are registered with the Financial Conduct Authority so we must administer ourselves in such a way as to ensure that all our profit is ploughed back into the Association and nowhere else – i.e. benefit to the community. It also means we can have our finances audited yearly by a suitably qualified internal auditor (i.e. a member of the association) but the AGM must vote on acceptance of the internal audit yearly (Item 7).

GARDENER'S QUESTION TIME AT THE FUN PALACE

On Sunday 7th October a long standing group of HwDAA tenants fielded questions posed by the audience at the Jacobs Wells Road Baths - Fun Palace.

Helen Tierney, Lesley Woodward, John Holland with a combined allotment experience of 80 years advised on subjects ranging from growing fruit and veg in pots to recommending blight resistant varieties of

potatoes. The Question Time was compered by Tom Ward Could this be something we could do more often?



Gardener's Question time in full swing

NEW TREASURER

This will be my last newsletter as Treasurer. Tom Ward (AM tenant) has kindly volunteered to take over the job after the 2019 AGM when all the previous year's finances should be wrapped up.

After 12 years as Treasurer I look back on the changes that have taken place during my time. When I started there was no website, no internet banking, very little use of emails and no Facebook page (love it or hate it). The issuing of tenancy agreements and new tenant packs was handraulic with lots of printed paper - now it's nearly all done by electronic means. At the end of 2007 we had 352 tenants, now we have over 520 which makes us one of the largest, if not the largest, allotment communities in the South West.

I'm carrying on with the IT/Computing stuff like running the website etc.

Tom will be using the email address treasurer@hwdaa.co.uk so please make sure it's in your address book so his important emails don't go into your junk folder.

I should like to thank Iggy Fung who has been our auditor throughout those 12 years. He has always provided sound and timely advice and financial expertise to keep us on an even keel.

Bob Corfield