

Brook Road Allotment Association **Newsletter, February 2010**

First of all, the committee would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members; congratulations on having made it to the top of a very long waiting list. We have been able to offer 12 starter plots so far this year, some in good heart, others a bit more of a challenge! I hope you will enjoy the fruits of your labour and being part of the allotment community. Remember, little and often is best and you will find most plot holders happy to offer advice, tips and sometimes plants and produce if they have a surplus.

For those of you who didn't attend the AGM in January sorry you missed a very good raffle, thanks to all who donated some excellent prizes. The committee has gained 2 new members, welcome to Pete and Sylvia, plus all the serving officers were happy to continue. For those who don't know, we are very fortunate to have such a hard working and skilled group of people giving their time to ensure the site is managed so successfully but new blood is always welcome!

From the AGM could I pass on a reminder – the towels in the toilet block are to dry hands on after they have been washed, not used to wipe the mud off! I'm sure you wouldn't do this at home so; who-ever you are, please can you try a little harder with the soap and water first?

Talking of toilets, some-one has left bags of rubbish by the compost bins, these included toilet seats. I find it very difficult to imagine what purpose had been planned for them on some-ones plot and I have a very vivid imagination! Obviously the person that left them there couldn't think of one either so has dumped them; this is not acceptable, the allotment site is not a dumping ground and any-one dumping rubbish will immediately forfeit their plot.

That's more than enough moans from me so on to more news.

Next week-end is the first working party of the year, all help welcome between 9 and 12.00 on the 27th and 28th Feb, you don't have to do the 3 hours, any help is gratefully received.

Our Summer Show and BBQ is planned for the 25th July so start planning your longest bean now. Not sure what the scarecrow competition will be but we will need more entries to give Chris a run for his money!

The Kinson Show will take place at Pelhams Park on the 1st Saturday in August but the Kinson Common Show may not be happening. This will be a shame as we usually manage to raise considerable funds towards our annual running costs at this event. Dawn is looking into whether we can offer any help to keep it going, so watch this space.

Broadstone Horticultural Society has sent us their show schedule if any-one would like to enter. The show is the 27th March, there is an interesting schedule and entries are free. The info for this is, guess where, you're right, in the toilet block! They also have a summer show on the 14th August.

Wild life section – to start,

❖ Bees

As you may know Brian is now keeping a bee hive on his plot. For those of you who wish to know more about this there is a new link on the BRAA website which will take you to Brian's monthly news letter.

Talking of the web site, do take a look and follow the links to all things allotment.

❖ Foxes.

Advice has been taken about the trapping of foxes and their release. It is legal to trap but not to set free on land without the owners consent. There are areas where this is possible and we are looking to establish if there is an area where this can be done. There is at least one fox using our site with severe mange. This is contagious to other animals but can be treated. We know we don't appreciate having foxes on site but we are still planning to obtain the necessary treatment to put out for the foxes to try to improve their health.

- ❖ Rats- if any-one sees rats on or around their plots please let Ted or Rich know as they have rat bait and tubes available. Don't forget that the rats enjoy piles of rubbish, another reason to keep your plot tidy and rubbish free.

After one of the coldest and wettest winters for a long time, let's look forward to a fine spring and summer, with the rain falling softly at night, the seeds germinating and growing well, the weeds going to Australia and the cabbage whites flying elsewhere.

In my dreams!

Happy growing season

Doff