



## Brook Road Allotment Association

Newsletter, February 2011

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2011. Thank –you to all members who paid their rents so promptly this year even though we had an increase for the first time in a few years. New membership cards are now ready for collection from Rich when on site. Thank you also to the many of you who attended our AGM with apologies accepted from those unable to join us. Once again, thanks to John, we had a splendid raffle which contributed towards the cost of the room rental, teas and coffees.

The new committee was elected at the AGM, with most existing members continuing to stand and with the addition of Margaret Good, Brian Trim, David Geary as secretary and Alan Touzel as Deputy Chair. I have taken over as Chair from John Caines who has resigned and given up his and Dawns plot through ill health. We are also pleased to announce that Rich Saunders has taken over officially from Ted Moore as Site Manager and Dave Willis is now Assistant Site Manager.

The continuing saga of padlocks and keys! To the person who has stolen 2 padlocks, I thought you might like to know that this has cost the association approximately £187, if you would like the exact figure please speak to Graeme Whiteside our treasurer, or better still give him the locks back. As the toilets no longer have a padlock we are concerned that should any vandals climb into the site they could easily cause a lot of damage here. Therefore we propose to reinstate the old padlock on this door on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 noon. Some of you will still have a key for this lock, (the old gate key); those who do not may collect a key on site between 9 am– 12.00 noon on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Following an approach by [www.Vegetableseeds.com](http://www.Vegetableseeds.com) we have a link to their website from our own. Their seeds are mainly smaller and cheaper packets from Kings Seeds. We used a donated voucher to obtain a selection of seeds which we gave as prizes in the raffle, so if you are interested, find those prize winners and speak to them! The firm make no charge for post and packing and will give a 10% discount with the following code AD817. Do take a look.

The subject of sheds was raised at the AGM and the committee have now agreed the following: you may erect one shed, sized 6 foot x 4 foot x 6.6 foot high maximum, of wooden construction. This will need prior agreement from the site manager or assistant site manager. There is a proviso that we have no automatic agreement with Bournemouth Borough Council over erecting any permanent structure on site, as given in the rule book. Basically this means that although as a committee we may agree it, if BBC says no, it will have to go!

A suggestion has been made that we use the notice board on the site office to 'advertise' any swops or surplus plants or materials people may have on site. Any surplus produce/plants could also be put on one of the tables at this point for members to take. This is not an excuse for any-one to bring unwanted materials on site to dump! We also ask that no spare materials be put behind the containers as this only encourages the rats.

Rich, site manager, has asked me to let you know his firm are making plastic cloches in a range of sizes at reasonable prices. Please speak to him for more details.

Some members may not know that we have a mower, strimmer and shredder for use on site. For more information on this please speak to Rich, Dave Willis or Graeme Whiteside.

Richard Senior, our brilliant webmaster has now updated the rule book and added some bee pictures to our website [www.braa.co.uk](http://www.braa.co.uk) do take a look.

The vacant plots are in the process of being re-let. Please remember to introduce yourselves to any new faces you see on site and make the new members feel welcome. To any new members reading this, I hope you will soon feel part of the Brook Road Allotment Association, please introduce your selves to your plot neighbours when you see them and I wish you well with your first seasons growing.

## **Reminders**

The date for this year's members show and open day is Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, watch out for more details. We will also be supporting the Kinson Horticultural Show at Pelhams Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in August. Help with both is always welcome.

The first working party week-end is planned for 12/13<sup>th</sup> March between 10.00am - 12.00 noon. All welcome, lots of jobs to get involved with from general tidying to hedge cutting. More info from Rich or Dave Willis.

Please remember there is a 10 mph speed limit on site, check you speed when driving round, I think a few of you may be surprised how fast you are going and you still have to stop at the gate!

The next committee meeting is at 7.00pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, venue to be decided.

Finally, I don't know about you but I seem to be scarily organised with buying my seeds this year. Let's hope for a good start to the spring sowing and growing season.

Doff