

## **Brook Road Allotment Association** **July 2010 Newsletter**

We're just over half way through the year and well into the growing season with one of the driest years for a long time after one of the coldest winters. This is all certainly a challenge but having written that it will probably now be one of the wettest autumns just to try us further! Thank you to all who have paid for a hose licence, we are very fortunate to have the luxury and convenience of running water on our site and £10 is a small price to pay for the privilege of using a hand held hose. The dipping tanks under each tap also provide a useful source of air temperature water to use with a can. Please will all who use this method run the tap to refill the tank rather than leaving it for the next user, as it is more than a little frustrating to find the tank nearly empty after you know you left it full! Be kind to your neighbour, you never know when you may need their help!

Overall the site is looking much improved although there are still a few plots that could do with a little more attention! The committee are pleased to see how the new members are getting to grips with their plots. Rich, Cynthia and I held a very successful meeting with the new members in May. This was well attended and gave us the opportunity to discuss a range of issues from the rule book to manure via hose licences and the foxes. Parking on the road was raised as puzzle for some, who wondered if there was one rule for the 'newcomers' and another for the 'old timers'! May I remind **every-one** that except for immediate loading/unloading, there is **no parking** on the road by your plot, if you want a parking space, create it on your plot as some have already done.

The Summer Show due to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> July has been postponed; with the Kinson Show at Pelhams Park on the 7<sup>th</sup> August, as the only outside show we have this year. As usual we will be putting on a display of produce and offering surplus fruit and veg. to visitors to the show. Help is welcome on the day and we are always pleased to see new faces. On the day we have to erect the marquee, set up the display, sell raffle tickets and man the surplus produce stall, please speak to Ted or Rich if you would like to be involved. This is our only chance this year to raise extra funds for the association so we do need to make the most of it. Those who have helped in other years will also tell you it's a great way to get to know other members and have a good laugh!

For those of you, who may be disappointed at not being able to test your growing skills by entering our show, remember the Kinson Show will welcome your entries, schedules will be available from the community centre and there are usually fun categories for children. I am sure Ted will be pleased to offer any advice on showing if you are unsure what to do.

Rats! Any-one who has seen rats or signs of on their plot remember that we have bait for them, available from Ted or Rich.

The young foxes are now having a lovely time playing round the site (I say through gritted teeth as they trashed one of my covers the other day)! Their mange is being treated by jam sandwiches laced with medicine, so if you spot any jam sandwiches laying around please leave them for the foxes.

Something I was not aware of, I have been asked to advise you to be careful when thinning parsnips as apparently the sap can be corrosive to skin at temperatures above 18 degrees. Better to be safe than sorry.

I know a few people are keen to move to larger plots when available and possibly there may be some who would like to move to a smaller plot. In order for this to be a fair process for all we are going to establish an 'Internal Waiting List'; this will be held by the Membership Secretary. Allocation for a larger plot will be based on use made of the existing one, using the monthly plot inspection marks as a guide and in discussion with the Site Manager and Membership Secretary and at the discretion of the committee. Should any member wish to be considered please contact Cynthia Beeden.

Does any-one have a kitchen base unit they no longer require that we could use in the site hut? If so please could they speak to John Caines or Rich.

Back to growing matters! If you haven't already, now may be the time to spray against blight on tomatoes and potatoes; Dithane remains the most effective as far as I am concerned. I did see on the Dobbies of Devon website a blight testing kit at £9.99. No idea if it works but if you have money to spare it could be an early warning device.

## Important Notice

After much discussion the committee has agreed that in order to reinforce site security the gate padlock will be replaced on the Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 6.00pm (1800 hours).

To make this as smooth a transition as possible please note the following

- New keys will be issued to members on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 9.00 am – 12.00 noon in the site hut.
- If you are unable to attend or send a nominated representative (we will need this information in advance) at these times/dates please contact Graeme Whiteside, plot 56 or tel: 07932158016 to make alternative arrangements.
- As currently, the new key will also operate the lock to the toilet door.
- Keys will only be available to members and known others eg council employees, contractors etc.
- There is no charge to current members for the new key.
- We will require your current keys to be returned to us once the padlock has been changed.
- In order to maintain security, spare keys will only be available through designated committee members.

I thank you all in advance for your co-operation in assisting us with this mammoth task in order for it to be as pain free for all of us as possible. Thank you.

Enjoy the best of the growing season!

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