



November 2011 Newsletter

The last newsletter for this year, where has the time gone?

First the **Fantastic News**, this year our site has **won the cup** for the best allotment site in Bournemouth. This is the first time we have ever won this award and I thank all site members, especially the committee for their hard work and co-operation in raising the overall standard to enable us to achieve this. Congratulations also must go to Dave Willis our site manager who has tied for first place with Peter Whiting from Longbarrow for the best allotment in Bournemouth; no mean achievement and very well deserved.

The results of our Allotment Site Competition are as follow:

1st place – Dave Willis

2nd place- Carol & Alan Brough

3rd place Graeme Whiteside

Best Newcomer Diane Turner

Congratulations to all and thank you to members who entered. For those who may not be aware, both competitions are run by Bournemouth Council; plots are judged twice through the growing season by members of a different site, these scores totalled and notified to the Council. The overall site competition is judged by the council who are looking at the overall condition of the site, plot management and community involvement.

We have had a busy summer; the Kinson Show saw us retaining the cup for our display, well done Dave for the second year of staging it. The alloti-boxes went well as raffle prizes and we raised £166.00, many thanks to John, Sylvia and the rest of the crew for all their efforts. Show entries by our plot holders produced some surprise wins against strong opposition. Let's see what we can do next year.

Our **summer show and hog roast** managed to defy the weather and was a tremendous success; much enjoyed by all who attended. Congratulations to Roger Trim for all his successful entries and winning the best in show. Roger managed all of this as well as cooking the hog roast. For those of you who weren't able to be there, Roger started cooking this at 7.30 am and I can vouch for the taste, it was delicious. (Apologies to the vegetarians reading this). Please can I extend my thanks to all who put in so much hard work in organising the event, setting it up, running the day and most of all returning the next day to take it down! Brian you did a fantastic job!!!

Back to the more mundane. May I remind any-one who brings a dog on site that the dog must be kept on a short lead on the owners plot. We have had some complaints from members about dogs running free on site or on a lead that allows them to access their neighbours plot; this is clearly not acceptable. We have discussed this as a committee and taken advice from the Federation. Some sites ban dogs totally, we do not want to take this route but if sensibility and co-operation from owners fails this may be the only option open to us. Dog owners it is up to you. In order to cover this unwanted possibility the option to make a rule change at a future date could be put before the AGM.

Trees: There is no problem with people growing fruit trees/bushes within their plot but please check that these are not against the boundary with your plot neighbour. Remember that the fruit will grow both sides and you need to be able to harvest it without going on the next plot, especially if there are other crops growing. I have noticed on a couple of plots seedling trees starting to gain a foot or should that be root hold! I ask that care is taken to weed out any seedling trees before they start into serious growth, seedlings don't take long to establish but can be a pain to take out later!

Plot renewal notices will be prepared soon.

- Any requests for up or down-sizing need to go to Cynthia, (plot 9 or email membership secretary) as she keeps an internal waiting list as well as the main list for newcomers.
- We do need to keep our records up to date so please can you ensure that any changes of address are also given to Cynthia. Plot renewals go to the last known address so if you have moved you may not get it!
- A reminder that any-one who shares their plot must let us have details of the associate member, (Cynthia again) and the appropriate membership paid.
- We have been advised that all plot holders post 2006 must live within the borough of Bournemouth; this will also apply to associate members.
- The committee have been tasked with advising the council of any-one not meeting this requirement for the appropriate notice to be given. This has resulted from other local councils tightening their overall approach to allotment sites, their management and membership. We do have a long waiting list and need to be seen to be fair to Bournemouth residents.
- We also have a few members with more than one full sized plot; this is a left over from the days when allotments went out of fashion! Could I ask them if they would consider relinquishing the extra plots to free up additional smaller plots for newcomers?

As I write this the rains have returned, we do need the rain but I wish it could confine itself to overnight, I need to get my onion sets in the ground. For those who put their allotment to bed for the winter, I guess you won't be around much over the next few months. Please can I ask that you have a general tidy-up before hibernation sets in

and leave things secure on your plot. For those of us who keep going mind your back if digging in the cold. Remember to spend time looking in the seed catalogues to see what can tempt you for next seasons growing. My challenge for next year is to try to grow peppers like Graeme!

Well done to the now not so newcomers for your efforts over the past months. I hope you have enjoyed the joys and frustrations of growing your own, welcome to the club.

If I don't see you on site I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM at Priestly Road site 10.00 for 10.30 on the 15th January 2012; the last day for paying your new membership.

Best regards

Doff