

July's Newsletter

Lipcowy biuletyn - Buletinul informativ al lunii iulie - Июльский бюллетень -
Бюлетин за месец юли - Липневий інформаційний бюлетень - 七月通訊

We hope this newsletter finds you well and a warm welcome to our new plot holders. We have some exciting news and updates to share with you.



Successful Lottery funding

If you haven't heard already, we are pleased to tell you that our Lottery Grant submission to replace our community shed roof has been successful!

We are now in discussions with our chosen roofing contractor around start dates. Details of the process of how we chose them is in our last set of Committee Meeting minutes dated 2nd July 2024 which can be found on our noticeboard and website. We will let you know once dates are confirmed as access to our site may be restricted when work starts; but it will be worth it as our community shed can truly be a community space for us all to enjoy events, talks, demonstrations as well as our usual get-togethers.

A huge thanks goes to our Chairman Bill and Treasurer John for their work on an obviously tremendous submission and especially to all you Lottery players - it genuinely does help.

Ideas for an 'opening ceremony' are welcome!



Drainage works complete

Taking time off work, both Bill and Graham have been working flat out to install a drainage pipe along the lower road. A 200 metre trench was dug, pipe laid, gravel added and then the dug out earth (mainly clay!) put back. With extra help from John and Derek Fry not only has this important job been completed, new water tank pipes along that stretch and up to the middle road have also been laid for the future should the existing pipes fail.

We know this work has effected a few plots for which we have apologised but long term this project will benefit us all so thank you to all the team involved and everyone's understanding.



Road maintenance work party weekend

Following on from the work above, another huge thank you goes to all those that came and supported our Work Party weekend to lay a new road surface on the lower road.

With the drainage trench filled in, everyone on Saturday morning and Sunday morning grabbed a rake and as Graham dropped the surface (which is recycled road surface would you believe) raked it across to form a new surface. Without their support it would have taken weeks but all was done in just 4 hours (over the two days) with time to enjoy a well earned tea, coffee, cold drink and some amazing cake baked by Miriam O'Connell.

These Work Parties, apart from a great way to meet fellow plot holders, are essential to help with the upkeep of our site. The more of us that take part the more we can get done quicker - so please, if you can spare us just 2 hours of your time it will be much appreciated. A list of the dates for our Work Parties for the rest of the year is at the bottom of this newsletter.



Water tanks

Please remember when you use our water tanks the lid must be shut immediately after you have filled your watering can and before you walk away.

We realise this may seem tedious and somewhat annoying but if the lid is left open unattended for any length of time we are in breach of our insurance policy ... and we all know what insurance companies are like when it comes to finding ways not to pay out! It's a simple thing we can all do to be compliant so thank you in advance.



Scrumpping!

An old English term for stealing fruit.

As fruit is starting to become abundant on our plots, it's important to remember that you cannot take any fruit (or any crop for that matter) from others plots without prior permission. If found 'scrumping' in any form, your tenancy will be terminated from immediate effect.

Calling all Citizen Scientists

Idverde, the organisation working with Bromley Council to help increase the Borough's Biodiversity, are asking each Allotment site to help them survey certain pollinators this year and so Joan Vine, our Biodiversity Champion, will be completing a weekly survey for them until the end of Autumn.

Idverde would also like all of us to look out for and report sightings of a number of different species. You can do this by following the QR code on the laminated poster pinned on the noticeboard on the side of the Community Shed.

You could also get involved in the Big Butterfly Count 2024. It only takes 15 minutes on any day until 11th August. Just look out for and record any butterflies you see on your plot. For full details click on this link <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>

As always, please keep your speed down when driving on our site, don't park blocking a road, and make sure the padlock numbers are facing up when you leave our site.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Bill, Lesley, John, Rob, Denis, Graham, and Bob

Work Party Diary 2024

August 3rd

Saturday, 10am-12noon
Water drain clearance

September 28th and 29th

Saturday and Sunday, 10am-12noon
Perimeter fence pruning

November 2nd

Saturday 10am-12noon
Water drain clearance

Events Calendar 2024

September 14th

Saturday, 11am-2pm
Annual General Meeting (AGM) and BBQ

October 26th

Saturday, 12noon-3pm
International food and end of season natter

December 14th

Saturday, 3pm-5pm
Christmas drinks, mince pies and cake

World Bee Day 20th of May

The United Nations General Assembly has designated the 20th of May every year as World Bee Day. Its purpose is to highlight the importance of bees and other pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development.

Threats to bees includes air pollution, pesticides, and climate change.

There are over 20,000 species of bees in the world. We are fortunate to have several hives of honeybees (*apis mellifera*) on our allotments. These are owned and managed by John and Miriam O'Connell.

Honeybees can forage within an area of 8 miles of the hives, but John and Miriam believe they probably stay much closer due the extensive sources of forage in our area, including all our pollinator friendly plants on our plots and within the allotment boundaries.

They play a vital role in pollinating so many plants, especially fruit crops; generating higher yield and better-quality produce. Just what we need!

According to the Soil Association the top 5 herbs we can grow to help bees are lemon balm, mint, fennel, lavender, and chamomile.

If you want to learn more and spread the word about World Bee Day scan this code:

All the best

Joan





Weed letter

Hi Everyone

This growing season may have had a slow start, but it's been great seeing everyone busy working hard to get their plots ready and already growing produce!

As we all agreed at our last Annual General Meeting (AGM), we will be doing regular 'weed walks' around our site to see how we are all doing and emailing the first of three weed letters to those plot holders that haven't got their plots ready so far. I completed my first walk round last weekend so emails will be sent out those identified in the next week.

There are still quite a few plots without numbers on them, so to avoid getting an email incorrectly please make sure you are displaying your plot number clearly as per your tenancy agreement.

If you are experiencing difficulties in the upkeep of your plot, please get in contact with us on email as soon as possible so we can understand your circumstances and help in any way possible.

If you receive an email, you will have around 2 weeks to sort out your plot before we inspect it again. If you have not been in contact and nothing has been done, then the second of the three letters will be emailed. If after another 2 weeks no progress has been made the third and final letter will be emailed giving your 30 days' notice of termination of tenancy.

A motion was also passed by all of us at our last AGM, that if this is your second year running in receiving the first letter, it will count as the second, meaning the next letter will be the third and final.

Plots for growing are at a premium within the LB of Bromley; with allotments having huge waiting lists of people eager to start growing their own. If you are unable to work your plot for whatever reason, then it would be a great gesture to pass it onto a new owner who will make the most of it again.

Cheers

Bob
Deputy Membership Secretary