

BEVELEY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWS LETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

NEWS FROM QUADRON SERVICES

Some good news at last - work is planned to start on September 14th to raise the canopy of the trees in the lower corner of the Park next to the allotments. This will improve visibility and it is hoped will deter intruders from climbing over the fence into the site. The lower section of the side of the hedge, which did not get trimmed last year, will be cut.

There is apparently no money available for Quadron to cut the top of the 'hedge'. It has been suggested that the Association considers applying for external funding for this work which if received could be matched by Quadron. It is too late for an application for this year so the committee will look into it next year.

The Council are still awaiting estimates to replace the lower section of broken fencing.

AMENDMENTS TO THE 'RULES'

At a recent committee meeting it was agreed that the following amendments/additions are to be made to the site rules - of which, fortunately, there are not many.

Polytunnels are to be classed as 'structures' and are to come under the Council's shed/greenhouse regulations as to size etc., only 1 structure to be allowed per half plot, 2 per full plot. All structures require permission from the Association before they are erected.

If you want to put up a shed etc. please contact me and I will send you the information sheet with the Council's regulations and a request form.

Bonfires must be extinguished before leaving the site and not left unattended – this is now a requirement of our Public Liability insurance policy.

ANTI-INTRUDER PAINT

You may have already noticed (I do hope you haven't touched it!) that the tops of the lower driveway gates have been painted with very sticky, non-drying paint to deter people from climbing over them. A large warning notice has also been put up advising of this hazard as apparently we could be sued if we don't give a warning!

PLANT SALE AND OPEN DAY 2010

This will be at the end of May again. Vegetable plants seemed very popular at the last sale so we will be growing more for next year. I will send out a list, in the New Year, of the varieties which will be available so you can decide in good time whether to sow your own seeds or buy from the Plant Sale.

WOODCHIPPINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE AGAIN IN EARLY WINTER.

Please let me know if you need any.

THE 'BRAMBLE PATCH'

Work is underway clearing the bramble patch. Over the years rubble and plant rubbish has been thrown into this area and it has become unsightly. The quality of the blackberries has declined, the best ones tend to be in the middle of the patch and unreachable so it was decided to clear it all out and start again. This area will be re-instated as a communal blackberry patch, hopefully more easily accessible.

PLOT INSPECTIONS

To take place on Monday 28th September. The site has generally looked really good this year and most people have worked their plots well.

WAITING LIST

We now have 33 people on the waiting list which could take at 15 years or more to clear! If anyone is thinking of giving up their plot please let me know as soon as you can.

HEDGE TRIMMING

Most of the hedge has now been trimmed on the allotment side. Thank you to everyone with a plot on that side who has cut it back. It saves such a lot of work if everyone does their own stretch. There are a couple of short stretches that still need trimming - it's not too late!

Autumn is in the air and that reminds me of 'Old Arthur' 'saying every year, without fail, that late Autumn is the *beginning* of a 'proper' gardener's year, the time to start preparing for next season's crops. He always aimed to get his plots cleared and as much rough digging done as possible before Christmas to give the Winter frosts a chance to break up the clods of soil. So take his advice and don't hibernate during the winter, come up to the allotment, get a head start on preparing your plot and avoid the Easter panic!

Gloria.