

BRIAR ROAD ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018

NUMBER 18

Dear Plot Holders,

First of all I want to say a thank you to all of you who have responded to our E-mail about the new parking Zone. If you prefer to fill out a hard copy there are forms in the hut. The code for the door is C2013X. (You may need to put your foot against the bottom of the door as it's a bit warped). When you leave the hut can you put the same code in again and lock the door - Thanks.

From your responses so far, it is obvious that many of you feel very worried about this parking zone which comes into effect in May down Andover Road and all side roads. Rest assured we are doing everything we can to get some of your issues addressed. We have written to several Cllrs and allotment officials and have received several replies. We will keep you informed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28TH MAY - FAIR ON TWICKENHAM GREEN. This will be the fourth year that we have had a stall. As always we will be asking for people to help us on the day, so if you can spare a few hours please let me know. We also need things to sell, so if you are having a sort out please donate to us. We obviously can't take very large items but most things sell. We can store things so if you want to get rid of them quickly just let me know. 07949744113. Things that sell well are plants and gardening items, cakes, jewelry, china and bric-a-brac. Any unwanted gifts are also invaluable for the Tombola. NO ELECTRICAL ITEMS PLEASE.
- SATURDAY 16TH JUNE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of BRAHA from 11am. Coffee and refreshments served from 10.30
- Sunday 10th June - MID-SUMMER B.B.Q.- In and around the Hut at 12 O'clock.
- SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER - MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES & RAFFLE - 11 -1 O'CLOCK

THE COMMITTEE:

We have welcomed four new members onto our committee. They are Sara Steinke, Natalie Low and Alan & Alison Charles. Sadly Shirley Tudbridy is calling it a day after over 20 years on the committee. We will all really miss her. This will bring the number on our committee to 13.

VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT:

We have been pursuing this for several years but progress has been hampered by LBRUT first trying to merge with Kingston and now merging with Wandsworth. We have prepared our part of a joint letter that will be sent out by LBRUT to every plot holder on site in the next few weeks. This will explain what Voluntary Management will mean for our site and showing that LBRUT is supporting our proposal. Before any final decision is made every plot holder will be given the opportunity to ask questions and vote before it can be confirmed.

PLOT INSPECTIONS: The vast majority of our plot holders cultivate their plots well but a few do not. I know, from the complaints I receive, that it is frustrating if you have someone near you who rarely visits the site and lets weeds grow and shed their seeds all over your plot. With large waiting lists the local authority is determined to address this problem. We do full plot checks at least twice a year and we are asked to forward to Pete Lewis any concerns we have. He will inspect the site regularly and will look at plots identified and take photos. With 200 on the waiting list for our site and people having to wait 4 years to get a plot, we cannot allow non-cultivation to continue. We realize that if you are ill or there are other

circumstances beyond your control you may not be able to work on your plot. If so we will do everything we can to help so **please** let us know.

DRAFT 10 YEAR ALLOTMENT STRATEGY:

The LBUT have drafted a new 10 year allotment strategy which is out to consultation with allotment groups. The Briar Road committee has read and discussed it and sent a response to LBRUT.

INVOICES:

Despite the fact they should have gone out in October we are aware that several people have still not received an invoice or have had a reminder letter when they have already paid. If you are one of these people please inform Pete Lewis the Allotment Officer. The newly merged boroughs have set up a new finance system for allotments which is outsourced to Capita. It is clearly not working properly.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

We have recently updated our E-mail list so please inform us if there are any changes. It is so much easier to send E-mails and saves a lot of postage too.

COOKBOOK:

I'm always asking plot holders how they cook/use their produce and there are some wonderful recipes out there. I thought it would be a lovely idea to produce a **BRIAR ROAD ALLOTMENT COOKBOOK**. Ideally I would love someone to take on the task of collating recipes and typing them up. Please let me know if you have a recipe you would like to share and especially if you are interested in working on the recipe book. Initially send your recipes to me with a list of ingredients and the method of cooking.

I'm sure you will agree we are very fortunate with the position of our site with houses on three sides and the river on the fourth. We have lots of birds which enjoy the protection of the trees and the bird boxes many have put up. Last year we had a wren building a nest in the leg casing of a table we had near the hut! It is so important to encourage wild life to our site.

Sadly last year my attention was drawn to the deaths of three hedgehogs. Hedgehogs eat slugs so should be our friends and their numbers are falling dramatically. If you do use slug pellets please try to stop the hedgehogs getting to them or the slugs they kill. Or preferably try to use organic methods of slug control.

We are so lucky to have the Twickenham Gardening Association Hut adjacent to our site which is open Saturday & Sunday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30. They sell compost, manure, seeds, bamboo canes and many other essential allotment items so please use them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gill Ware Chair of BRAHA