

BURLEY MODEL ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

The Cardigan Centre, 145-149 Cardigan Road, Leeds LS6 1LJ Phone 0752 786 3609

NEWSLETTER April 2008

There will be an
Annual General Meeting

of
Burley Model Allotments Association
at

10:30 a.m. on Saturday 17th May 2008.

All plotholders are warmly invited to attend.

Refreshments will be available.

Followed by

Shop
Barbecue (bring your own food)
Plant sale

The agenda will be published closer to the date. Find out how the Association is run and have your say!

The updated BMAA rules, as agreed at the EGM on 24th November 2007, are available on our website www.burley-model-allotments.org.uk or from the hut. All proposals for rule changes must be made in writing to the Secretary before the meeting, with signatures of proposer and seconder, who must both be plotholders.

BMAA SHOW 2008

The main event of the BMAA year, the Annual Show, will take place on **Sunday 7th September**. **Please book it in your diary now.** Fifty years ago this year, the site was laid out as a Model Allotment Site. We want to make it a celebratory year, and make the show better than ever.

Did you have a plot here in 1958? Do you know someone who had one? If so please let us know. We would like to invite anyone who was on the site at the time, along with their families, to join us at the show and help us celebrate.

The format for the show is well tried and tested, although we are always open to new suggestions. What we can add to improve and extend the event beyond the actual show? Have you an idea for a stall, or competition? Would you like to run a stall? Has anyone any new ideas please?

We are approaching our suppliers and local firms to sponsor the show. Do you know any person or organisation that may be willing to support us? Our main income from the show is from a raffle and tombola, and donations of prizes are always welcome. Any prizes not used at the show will be used for other raffles throughout the year. If you have any suitable items such as unwanted or

corporate gifts, please consider donating them to us.

Look Out – there's a thief about
Between 4pm and 6pm on Thursday 17th April there was a break-in at the BMAA hut, via the rear verandah. **Were you on the site** at that time? **Did you see anything unusual or anyone unfamiliar on that day**, or on the previous day when tools were taken from a greenhouse on plot 62? If you did, please contact the Secretary urgently on the number above.

It may be that those responsible were watching the site. Around that time there were people who were working on plots near to the hut, but there is an interval between about 5.30pm and 6pm when nobody was there.

We don't want to frighten people, but considerable force was used to batter the door panels of the hut.

- **If you have a mobile phone, bring it to the site with you and carry it with you at all times if you can.**
- **If you see a break-in in progress, ring 999 for the police. Do not tackle the burglars yourself.**
- **For acts of vandalism or burglary after the event, ring the police non-emergency number which is 0845 6060606.**
- **ALWAYS LOCK THE GATES.**

HELP NEEDED

While we appreciate that not everyone is willing / able to join a committee to help run the site, there are many jobs that the committee cannot do, because of time or skill constraints. Are you able to help with any of these occasional or one off jobs, which are currently :-

• Hut Roof

The hut roof now needs re-felting. We have received a professional quote of almost £2,000 to get this job done. Does anyone know of someone who can do this? We can provide all necessary materials and unskilled manpower.

• Notice Boards

When the water taps were renewed a few years ago, the posts holding the taps were made long enough to support a notice board. However, it has remained of these jobs to do 'sometime', and notices just have been fixed to the post. Is anyone willing to make one or more notice boards to fix on them? Again, we can provide materials if required.

• Gardening

Yes! We do mean that. The front, back and sides round the hut could all do with a facelift. Would anyone like to help tidy and plant this area, or even just 'adopt' a small part of it to tidy etc. We can ask for donations of appropriate plants.

• Odd Jobs

From time to time we have other odd jobs such as repairing lockers, etc. These sometimes have to wait until someone has time to do them. If you may be able to help us on these occasions, please let us know so we can contact you if we need help. You do not have to give a firm commitment now.

Last but not least, thank you to all who do 'odd jobs' as they occur. Tidying up rubbish, helping with deliveries, minor repairs ... all help is very much appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

SHOP/HUT

The hut is usually open on a Saturday morning between 10.30 and 11.30. All ploholders and friends are welcome to call in for a chat, cuppa or advice etc. In the shop, we have a variety of gardening sundries on sale, and a current price list is enclosed with this newsletter. Without the high overheads of commercial concerns we can offer most items at a much lower cost than shops and garden centres.

In the hut we have second hand gardening and cookery books which can be consulted, borrowed and some of which may be bought for a donation. We also have a selection of seeds which have been donated. Please feel free to come and browse. On the front and back verandas there are book cases with a selection of donated books and magazines. If you would like any of these please help yourself. We do not price any of these items, but donations to the BMAA funds are always welcome, as are donations of books etc.

The Association owns a small selection of tools, such as shears and loppers, which are available for ploholders to borrow. For some of these we ask for a fully returnable deposit. From time to time we have items donated such as gardening tools and boots and at present a selection of these is available in exchange for a donation.

If you cannot come on a Saturday morning, members of the Committee are usually able to let you purchase items whenever they are in the hut.

On alternate Sundays, there is a Café / Soup Kitchen held in the hut. For more details of this please see the notice board outside.

Surplus plants / seedlings etc are also sometimes available and these will be either on the veranda, or the concrete area at the back of the hut. Again, if you would like any of these please take what you need and leave a donation. If there is no-one in the

hut, donations can be posted under the door. Donations of plants and seedlings for the sale on 17th May will be appreciated, so please save any surplus you have.

HEALTH and SAFETY

Allotment sites, by their nature, are potentially dangerous places but a lot can be done to keep the dangers to a minimum. Phil, a plot holder for nearly 30 years, had a nasty accident before Christmas when he tripped over his own feet. I am sure we have all done this at some time and taken a tumble. However, Phil unfortunately landed on a piece of angle-iron sticking up from the side of his path. An ambulance had to be called. The gash in his leg required 10 stitches and the surgeons were at one point considering plastic surgery. The moral of the story is that tripping over our own feet will occur but landing on angle-iron needn't happen.

Health and Safety good practice states that everyone has a duty of care to themselves and others. Thus we ask every plot holder to check their own plot and paths and take any remedial action to remove unnecessary potential dangers.

Items to consider include:-

- a) **Trip and slip hazards** such as bricks, hosepipes, uneven surfaces including rucked and moss covered carpets on paths.
- b) **Stab hazards** such as projecting nails, metal posts, canes. Canes should be safely capped; the bottles that contain pro-biotic drinks work very well.
- c) **Cut hazards** such as broken glass and sharp metal. Take these off the site immediately – please don't dump glass by the hut!
- d) **Lash and graze hazards** such as shrubs and trees, especially roses and brambles, growing over pathways.
- e) **Poison hazards** such as pesticides and concentrated fertilisers. Ensure that all bottles are tightly closed and all powders are in a container so they cannot spill – one of our ploholders badly burned his hand when the lid came off a bottle and the contents splashed over him. Don't leave plastic bottles in your greenhouse – they go brittle and start to leak, or shatter unexpectedly when picked up.

If you require advice on the safe removal of any of the above please contact the Secretary at the above address or at the hut on a Saturday morning. We appreciate that many of the metal posts alongside paths have been in place for many years and may well have been inherited with your tenancy. If you require help in removing such posts please contact the Secretary and we will do our best to find some help.

- Please ensure that your tetanus vaccination is up-to-date.
- If you have a mobile phone, bring it with you or tell someone where you will be and when to expect you back.
- Take care to not to over-do things early on in the year. The maxim of "little and often" allows your muscles to strengthen and helps prevent strains and back problems.
- Take the proper precautions when using hand tools and power tools and wear appropriate protective clothing, footwear, gloves and eye protection.
- Keep chemicals and sharp tools out of sight, out of the reach of children and preferably locked away.

Wishing you all a safe and productive growing season.

PATHS

Each plothead is responsible for the maintenance of the path on the right hand side of their plot, looking from the roadway. This path must be kept straight, tidy and clear of obstructions, overhanging plants, rubbish, etc. at all times, as it needs to be available for the adjoining plothead and visitors. The pathways between the plots in the middle of site must be available for safe passage between the top and bottom roads. If you are unsure of the line of your path, please contact a member of the committee who will help you to mark it out.

Goodbye DERRIS

The Pesticides Safety Directorate has withdrawn approval from rotenone in 2008. This popular and widely used organic insecticide is commonly known as Derris. It is currently available as a liquid and a dusting powder. Derris is derived from plants and is effective against a wide range of pests including flea beetle, caterpillars and aphids. No single product can replace it.

The suppliers notified the PSD that they 'no longer wish to participate in the programme of work' to confirm that rotenone meets EC safety criteria. In other words, they can't say that Derris is unsafe, but they haven't proved that it *is* safe. Rotenone is known to kill fish and has been linked to Parkinson's Disease.

The PSD have not yet set a date for withdrawal, but retailers should have until September 2008 to sell off stocks. From the official withdrawal date, we gardeners will have a year to get rid of derris, at risk, according to the PSD website, of a £5000 fine! We will let you know when we hear more.

Find more than you ever wanted to know about the PSD at www.pesticides.gov.uk.

Where are these Trophies?

We need your help! We've discovered a programme from the Burley Model Allotment Show held in 1965 at St Catherine's Hall on St Michael's Lane. Where was this? Does it still exist?

It also lists the trophies awarded then. We have other papers from around this time which mention others and give more details. The trophies we know of, with the bits of information we have are:

The Munday Trophy, (A rose bowl on plinth, inaugurated in 1937)

The Alf Gilgrass Trophy, (first presented 1941)

The W F Bell Trophy, (cup on plinth engraved Burley Permanent Allotment Association, presented 1943)

The Committee Cup, (cup on plinth engraved Burley Permanent Allotment Association)

The Arthur E Cuss Cup, (cup on plinth dated 1952)

The Arthur E Cuss Shield,

The Dennison Trophy, (cup on plinth, presented by Alderman H Wadsworth Sellers O.B.E.)

The Woodhouse Amenity Trophy, and

The Ronald Hopkins Trophy. (cup with lid on plinth)

Does anyone know where these trophies are now? Have you relatives who may have had a plot around that time? Does anyone know of any photos from those days? If so we'd love to hear from you. Is anyone related to any of the people who donated the trophies or know anything about them? We'd like some history.

We've no records of who last held these trophies, and no idea what has happened to them. It would be great if any of these trophies could be returned to the Association, so we can start awarding them again. If anyone now owns any of these outright we would like to borrow them to display at the show this year.

LOCKERS

Do you use yours? Many plots have been let as half and quarter plots. We now have almost 150 plotheads, but only 100 lockers, so as you can imagine these are in demand, particularly as many plotheads live in property without suitable storage. If you have a locker, but currently only use it for items that could be stored elsewhere, please consider if you really need it, or could you let it go to someone who needs it more.

Shop news

Our regular suppliers have recently put up their prices for 40 litre and 80 litre sacks of multipurpose compost. For this reason we are trialling 60 litre sacks of Humax compost from Acorn Garden Supplies in Bingley. This is much better value for money but we will only have the 60 litre size when stocks of the 40 and 80 litre run out. Let us know how you get on with this new compost! Acorn also supply the Humax growbags which many people liked last year. If a 60 litre bag is too much for you, why not buy growbags for compost?

Seed Potatoes still available

The following varieties are still available from the hut, but as soon as the weather warms up, they'll go, so be quick!

RED DUKE OF YORK	For an early crop with a real potato flavour
MARIS BARD	Delicious 'new potato'
INTERNATIONAL KIDNEY	'New potato' or grow on for good sized bakers
PINK FIR APPLE	Tasty knobbly salad / late crop, great keeper
MAXINE	Main season all-round potato

Special offer!

Superphosphate less than half price! Now reduced from 85p to only 40p for 2½ kilos! Superphosphate encourages strong roots on seedlings, rooted cuttings and transplants, and early maturity of fruit. It can be used all year, either dug in before planting or scattered around growing plants and hoed in. Use at 2 ounces per square yard / 70 grams per square metre. As with all concentrated fertilisers, make sure it doesn't go onto the leaves. Not organic – for a high phosphate organic product, use bonemeal.

All plants need Nitrogen (for stem and leaf growth), Phosphate (for root growth) and Potash (for flowers and fruit). Growmore and Blood Fish and Bone contain roughly equal parts of these three nutrients. Sulphate of Ammonia and Poultry manure supply Nitrogen. Sulphate of Potash and Maxicrop Tomato provide Potash. Maxicrop General liquid feed supplies many of the trace elements that plants also need.

A handout is in preparation containing a summary of our fertiliser products, what they contain and how and when to use them. This will be available from the hut.

Burley Model Allotments Association PRICE LIST, APRIL 2008

Fertilizers and Soil Treatments

Growmore	£1.30	(2½ kilos)
Sulphate Of Ammonia	90p	(2½ kilos)
Sulphate of Potash	£1.00	(2½ kilos)
Superphosphate	40p	(2½ kilos)
Bonemeal	£1.10	(2½ kilos)
Fish Blood and Bone	95p	(2½ kilos)
Early Bird Pelleted Poultry Manure	£5.00	(15 kilos)
6x Poultry manure	£3.50	(10 kilo tub)
Lime	50p	(2½ kilos)
Nitrochalk	£1.05	(2½ kilos)
Maxicrop General	£1.60	(½ litre)
Maxicrop Tomato	£1.60	(½ litre)

Growing Media

Multi Purpose Compost	£4.50	(80 litres)
	£2.90	(60 litres)
	£2.40	(40 litres)
Growbags	£1.40	each

Disinfectant

Jeyes Fluid	£1.00	(¼ litre)
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Sundries

8ft Canes	30p	each
6ft Canes	20p	each
Polytwist twine	£1.00	each
Greentwist garden string	80p	each
Plant Labels (various)	25p	bundle
Pencils	10p	each
Slug Pellets	£2.00	Pack

Web site update

The BMAA website has recently been updated - see www.burley-model-allotments.org.uk, especially the Forum page where you will find details of all the latest updates as well as important information directed at ploholders and volunteers.

New contact telephone number

We now have an association mobile phone that will be passed around so that everyone can contact a committee member / officer if they need to. The number of this phone is **0752 786 3609**. Please don't call after 9pm or before 7am!