



Burley Model Allotments

Burley Model Allotments Association The Cardigan Centre 145-149 Cardigan Road Leeds LS6 1LJ
Email: bmaasecretary@gmail.com www.burleymodelallotments.org

NEWSLETTER+

Winter 2018 V5

Welcome to the Burley Model Allotments Newsletter

Hello All Allotmenters

Welcome one and all to the winter newsletter 2018. Included here are a couple of bits and bobs and some other items and news that we think you will find interesting - well at least useful.

It seems like an age since the last newsletter and a number of things have happened since then. A couple of items include last year's Annual Show, the Annual General Meeting; these are the two regular events we have here at the Association and thank you to all who attended both of these events.

We also include a piece about "Nature Watch" this is a scheme we are setting up on the site to monitor the wildlife seen on and over the site. It has taken a couple of years to get this up and running and as ever with these things it can only be achieved with the support and assistance of volunteers who have come forward to help with this initiative. As ever there are also a few other articles that you may or may not find interesting.

Annual Show

Last year's show was another amazing spectacle. Congratulations again must go to the Show Secretary and the Show Committee for another remarkable day. All of the judges were once more superb but the biggest thanks must go to all of you who contributed and helped on the day. Check out the Videos and pictures from the Annual Show on the website.

Thanks also must go to all who attended and everyone who put entries into the Show. As always we are in need of help with the Show and the planning for the 2018 Annual Show has already started. So if you feel you can help contact us through the website or please pop in to the Hut one Saturday morning for an informal chat.

Annual General Meeting

This year's A.G.M. was held on the 28th October 2017 and once again was well attended. The usual format was followed - there were reports from the Secretary and Membership Secretary, followed by the Treasurer's report and the election of officers to the Committee.

There were some changes to the Rules that were agreed at the meeting. These related to the ownership of structures on the plot and tidied up the changes made at last year's A.G.M. The Chair apologised for any confusion caused by this.

It was also agreed that this year we would look at the Constitution and propose any necessary changes for this year's A.G.M. The minutes of the A.G.M. will be posted in the library on the Website as soon as possible.



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Annual General Meeting

The following were voted on to the Committee and as Trustees of the site.

- Chair: Vacant
- Vice Chair: Vacant
- Secretary: Iain Smith
- Treasurer: Helen White
- Membership Secretary: Frank Turpin
- Stores Manager: Tony Handby
- Show Secretary: Vacant
- Lettings Secretary: Lesly Best
- Publicity Officer: Keith Barrett
- Committee Member: Tim Wilford
- Committee Member: Sue Hollington
- Committee Member: Steve Kind
- ❖ Trustee: Barry Raw
- ❖ Trustee: Tony Handby
- ❖ Trustee: Iain Smith

Needless to say “Thank You” to all who attended the above events.

Nature Watch

This article is to introduce the Burley Model Allotments Association “Nature Watch” scheme. For those of you who have been keeping up with recent goings-on at the site this is a scheme that has been discussed at the last two Annual General Meetings. For those of you who haven’t been keeping up, this should explain all.

It was proposed a couple of years ago to set up a scheme to monitor the wildlife on the plot and although this is a very laudable sentiment it has taken some time to come to fruition as these things have a habit of doing, well at least until someone is pressed into doing all the work. Well luckily for us David has stepped in to lend a hand. We are hoping to set up an online presence but in the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to help contact David Benn at bmaanw@gmail.com



So have you ever wondered about the wildlife on the allotments? Perhaps you have seen a rare or interesting bird, and thought about contacting the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) or the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) to find out more?



BMAA has set up a nature watch group, and starting from February we will be regularly recording wildlife seen on (and over!) the site. The group is very keen to hear from all plot holders; you will be able to write your sightings on a notice board outside the hut, and eventually send them in online. We will of course keep you up to date on this initiative through the newsletters as well.



We welcome any level of detail, and photos would be a big bonus. We will even try to help with identification if needed.

Other plans include setting up bat and bird boxes, bird feeders close to the hut, and inviting groups such as West Yorkshire Bat Group to carry out specific onsite surveys. Group volunteers will gather and share all data with national conservation and academic bodies. We are already in touch with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Leeds Nats and RSPB. Group members have already carried out several ‘practice’ surveys and have recorded several interesting birds including Jay and Woodcock. And many of you will remember the flock of Waxwings that took up residence last winter.





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Nature Watch

This shows that our allotments are an important green area amid dense housing, but are also close to green corridors and the open spaces in the Kirkstall valley. As ever the success of this project will depend on the number of members of the association who contribute to the scheme.

More detail will soon be available on our website. If you have any questions or would like to help contact David Benn at bmaanw@gmail.com

Coffee Mornings

After the success of last year's coffee mornings we are going to repeat the feat this year. We will be holding events in April, May and June. The dates are as follows; **Saturday 14th April, Saturday 12th May and Saturday the 9th June**. Be sure to add these red letter dates to your diary. There will be posters on the notice boards and gates and no doubt another newsletter will be out before then. You will also I fear be bombarded with emails regarding these events as well.



The format will be the same as last year. The shop will open later and there will be time to get to know your neighbours over a coffee (I am sure there will be tea available as well) and a chat. There will be opportunity to swap plants and seeds as well.



Please call in and make these events what they are intended to be - a chance to get to know one another and learn from each other. We all plant too many seeds and have a glut of one thing or another so bring along some plants to swap. If you can't make the day but still have a surplus, leave them on the porch of the Hut as someone will always be able to make use of them.

Water for the site 2018

Last summer, our water bill was more than double the bill for the summer of 2016. As it was not such a dry summer, it would appear that something has changed: people are leaving taps running after they have filled up and the water butt is full, people are watering a lot more than in previous years, or there is a leak.

So what can we do about it?



We've asked Yorkshire Water to install a modern meter, so we can take readings quickly and easily, and will take monthly readings over the summer. As the water is switched off for the winter, we can't investigate the possibility of a leak until it comes on again at Easter - we'll ask someone to come in then to see if they can find a leak. So when the water is back on can all of you be super vigilant about taps running and overflowing water butts, and

think whether you do need to use a lot of water on your plot. Obviously, if the water bill continues at this level, we will have to increase the amount we all pay for water, so it's everyone's problem. Thanks for your help





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Annual Show 2018



In the spirit of giving out more information as early as possible, this year's Show will be on **Sunday the 2nd of September 2018**.

As ever we require help to run this year's Show. A big Thank You to all that helped last year and we hope we can count on your continued support this year. So what do we need help with? Well its things like the following:-

- Help putting up and taking down the marquees.
- Baked goods.
- Entries into the Show.
- Cleaning.
- And the 1001 other things that we cannot mention here.

Should you want to help in any way please call at the hut or email any of the members of the Committee. Some ideas include:-

- Music or a band on the day (do you know someone who could perform?).
- Charitable organisations to whom any unwanted produce could be donated.
- More interaction with/from people in neighbouring houses.
- Ways to make it a simpler less competitive day.

We will of course let you all know as soon as possible the format and start times of the Show. Once again, as ever, with everything we do, your help and support is much appreciated.

Contact Details

It is important that your contact details we hold are kept up to date. We require these to be able to keep in touch with you in case of an emergency, to be able to send you newsletters, details of upcoming events and your annual invoice. It is also a means of knowing that you are who you say you are. In these days of identity fraud it is imperative that you keep us up to date with your details. We need to know if you have changed any of the following details in the last 12 months.



Home Address This is the Main Contact details that we put on your invoice, where we send any correspondence regarding plot condition, late or non-payment of invoice.



Email This is used to keep you updated with information, Newsletters, the Annual Show and A.G.M. This is also used for those of you who have chosen to have paperless invoicing. You can unsubscribe to this at any time.



Telephone Used as an emergency contact; in the case of vandalism or if there is any other damage to your plot that you may need to attend to. It would help if you can provide a mobile and home telephone number if you have both.

Not having your up to date contact details could mean that you may lose your plot if important correspondence is sent to the wrong address.

Soil and Growing

Interested in soil and growing? There's a free on-line course starting on 19 February called Soil to Sky, which is about soil and how to improve it. It's 4 hours a week for 4 weeks

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/grow-from-soil-to-sky>



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Potatoes, Onions and Shallots

This year we have the following potatoes available; you can buy potatoes by the number of tubers for example- (6 Rocket, 4 Kestrel, 6 Cara) or by weight e.g. 1 kilo.

All Potatoes are priced at £1 per Kg.

Please call into the hut on a Saturday morning between 10-11am to buy your potatoes.

First Earlies

- ❖ Home Guard
- ❖ Rocket
- ❖ Pentland Javelin
- ❖ Swift.



Second Earlies

- ❖ Charlotte
- ❖ Kestrel.



Main Crop

- ❖ Cara
- ❖ Desiree
- ❖ King Edward
- ❖ Maris Piper
- ❖ Picasso
- ❖ Sarpo Mira.

We also have the following onion sets and shallots available

Onion Sets

Sturon are priced at £1.00 per 500g for approx. 140



Shallots

Yellow Moon are priced at £1.00 per 250g for approx. 10

Website



As we told you in the last newsletter, the website has been updated and there is a new page with video images of the site as well as video from the Annual Show. The Events page has been updated and included are the events occurring at the Emerald Headingley Stadium. This is the home of Leeds Rhinos, Yorkshire County Cricket Club (this includes Yorkshire Vikings, the name used by the one day and T20

sides) and Yorkshire Carnegie Rugby Union Club. As we are all aware, when there are large events on at the stadium, parking and access to the site can be an issue. These events have been added for information only.

And Finally

Please call into the hut for your supplies, we have potatoes, onions and shallots available for sale as well as all the usual bits and pieces that you would want and expect. So don't be a stranger, call in and see us and have a chat and a cuppa. We also hope to see you at the upcoming Coffee Mornings and plant swap.

As ever we hope you all enjoy your time on the allotment site and have fun happy growing.