



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

One thing you can say about Santa: He's got Christmas in the bag.

Our Review of the Year



Welcome one and all, and the rest of you, here we are with the winter newsletter 2018. It seems such a long time since we were in touch but as you know we don't like to inundate you with emails and newsletters (oh yes we do, it's not a pantomime you know, oh yes it is) for no reason. Really we don't do this because we like it (Oh yes we do). We know it doesn't seem so but quite a lot has happened this year. (Oh, by the way the auditions for the ugly sisters have now closed; it's a good job we didn't audition for the Nativity.

We should at this point say a big **HELLO** to all our new members who have joined us this year, we hope that you will enjoy your time with us here at Burley Model Allotments and good luck (and you will need it) to everyone with all your endeavours for next year. You will find that everyone is friendly and by calling into the Hut on a Saturday morning you can have a cuppa and get to know everyone. We're not as mad as we seem (Oh yes we are), no really we're not. (He's behind you). Really it's not a pantomime. (Oh yes it is).

We all hope that that next year we can all reap an abundant crop of the seeds and plants we sow next year and that we have a great harvest. Should you be so lucky bring it on to the show, it's not how big it is, nor how special we are (we're all special, otherwise we wouldn't be here). It's really about being a part of the whole day.

So what have we been up to this year? It seems we had a pretty slow start to the year but once we managed to get through the dark days of winter things appeared to pick up a little. (things are slow growing in winter, it's the cold weather don't you know). Our first events were the



Coffee Morning's and Plant Sales These events were run on consecutive months in April, May and June in the Trading Hut and were very successful. It is a great way to come and see everyone and have a cuppa, perhaps some cake and swap stories, oh and pick up a few plants as well.

Annual Show This year's show was another triumph. Congratulations to the Show Secretary and the Show Committee for another remarkable day.



Annual General Meeting This year's A.G.M. was held on the 27th October 2018. The usual format was followed see the website for full details and copies of the minutes.

Apple Press Afternoon We hired the equipment from Leeds Urban Harvest and again this proved successful with those who attended.

Further information regarding A.G.M. and Annual Show are detailed below, as well as a few other articles that we hope may pique your interest.

**Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can Ho Ho Ho.**



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**Why is Christmas just like your job?
You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.**

So What's in Store for Next Year

Well we will be doing our usual events, (no change there then, if it's not broken then let's fix it). Should you have any ideas for new events we are always open to suggestions.



We will be having the Coffee Mornings and Plant Sale's, in April May and June and the Annual Show next year will be on Sunday the **1st September 2019** (another red letter day for your diary).

There will of course be the Annual General Meeting in October.

Should you wish to make any changes to the rules or constitution, please let us know via the website or in writing. Should you wish to join the committee or attend any of our meetings these are open to one and all and take place at 7.00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month.



We hope to have a couple of Apple Pressing Afternoons next year, one is scheduled for the 7th of September, and maybe we can have one before the A.G.M. we will keep you posted on this. Perhaps we may be able to provide more equipment and we all hope for warmer weather for the event.

**I bought my son a fridge for Christmas.
I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.**



We are looking to survey all the trees, on the site, mainly the non-fruit trees and self-seeded ones in the hedges. This will identify diseased and damaged trees on the site. Once we have this report we will let you know more. Remember if you are planning on planting trees on the site use those with a dwarf rooting stock (otherwise we end up with a Jack and the Beanstalk scenario) and that

non-fruiting trees are not allowed on the site.

We are hoping to do a small mammal survey of the site and perhaps organise a bird walk of the site in Spring and Autumn next year.

We are also looking to phase out the use of non-sustainable compost used on the site. This is in line with the RHS and National Trust and most other national organisations who all recommend the use of peat free or sustainable sourced compost. We currently sell sphagnum based compost which is from a non-sustainable source. During the next year you will have a choice to purchase the old stock we currently have. We will in future be purchasing peat free compost which we have been selling for a number of years now. We have arranged a significant cost reduction for this product. The cost will be £4.50 per bag an increase from the non-sustainable stuff of around 50p.



Here is where you can make your own jokes up about what the committee talk all year long.....

**What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
The Christmas alphabet has Noel.**



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**How does an elf get to Santa's workshop?
By icicle.**

Annual Show

Thanks to all of you who contributed and helped on the day. As well as to all who attended and everyone who put entries into the Show. We hope to see you all again next year.

**Why did the Grinch go to the liquor store?
He was looking for the holiday spirit.**

Annual General Meeting

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 no proposals to change to the Rules this year. There were some minor changes to the Constitution to remove some redundant officer roles and to add a Data Protection, and Health & Safety sections. The minutes of the A.G.M. will be posted in the library on the Website as soon as possible.

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

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

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

This holiday season, in lieu of gifts, I've decided to give everyone my opinion.

Annual Show 2019

In the spirit of giving out more information as early as possible, next year's Show will be on Sunday the **1st of September 2019**. Again a big thankyou 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.
- Cleaning.
- And the all the 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. 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.

A broken drum is the best Christmas present - You just can't beat it.



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**What does Santa bring naughty boys and girls on Christmas Eve?
A pack of batteries with a note saying, "Toy not included".**

Potatoes, Onions and Shallots 2019

By the time you receive this newsletter you will no doubt be in planning mode so to help you with this, here is a list of our stock for 2019. We will hope to have the following potatoes available by late January 2019. Please call into the hut on a Saturday morning between 10-11am to buy your potatoes. We will have early order forms to use these are available now.

Please Note the Hut will be closed from Saturday the 22nd December and re-open on Saturday the 5th January 2019

All Potatoes are priced at £1 per Kg.

You can buy potatoes by the number of tubers for example- (6 Rocket, 4 Kestrel, 6 Cara) or by weight e.g. 1kilo.

First Early's

- ❖ Home Guard
- ❖ Rocket
- ❖ Casablanca

Second Early's

- ❖ Charlotte
- ❖ Kestrel.
- ❖ Wilja

Main Crop

- ❖ International Kidney
- ❖ Cara
- ❖ Desiree
- ❖ Harmony
- ❖ Sarpo Mira.
- ❖ Maxine
- ❖ Picasso



We will 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



**What do get if you cross a duck and Santa?
A Christmas Quacker.**

Bird walks of the allotment 2019

We are hoping to set up a couple of bird walks of the site in Spring and Autumn next year. These will be done in conjunction with Rodley Nature Reserve. So if you have a hankering to learn more of our feathered friends or you have a serious interest in ornithology then please let us know. We will have more details regarding these events early next year.

**I've got my girlfriend a wooden leg for Christmas.
It's not her main present it's just a stocking filler.**



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**What do you call a frog hanging from a ceiling?
Mistletoad.**

Sustainable Compost

One of the great pleasures in life is opening a bag of seed compost and sinking your hand deep inside. It's not just that it's deliciously soft; it's knowing that this is the key to starting off a healthy plant. OK, maybe it's not one of life's pleasures, but it's one of February's great joys. This is usually the first serious start to spring. Sweet peas, chillies, leeks, onions, snapdragons, cosmos and on and on until summer. It all starts in a good bed of fine compost. Because of this it is important that we all move to using compost from a sustainable source. As we mentioned earlier we hope to move to providing this by the end of 2019. This will mean that we will be changing our current supplies and of course this will mean a small increase in cost. We will try to keep this to a minimum (around 50p) but what price can you put on trying (in our own small way) of saving the planet. Well it's about 50p I guess.

We currently do not use peat based compost on the site but if you do please remember that peatlands are fragile, important habitats that act as huge carbon sinks, absorbing greenhouse gases from our atmosphere. It makes no sense to damage one home to make another. We are looking into other alternatives to the sphagnum based compost we currently buy as this is not from a sustainable source and will be replacing this with another variety. We do of course (and have done so for many years) provide a peat free alternative in the hut.

**A Jehovah's Witness gave me an advent calendar.
The first door I opened there were two of them standing behind it.**

Make your own Compost

The best way to ensure you are using compost from a sustainable source is to make your own compost this can take up to a year but at least you know what you are using to grow seedlings and what you are putting on your plot.

The best time to make some is in spring, because it will rot down faster. It's dead easy to make, it costs nothing and it does the garden a whole lot of good.

The recipe for success when it comes to composting is keeping the compost hot to kill off weed seeds and diseases

- 2 parts carbon (newspaper, cardboard, straw) to 1 part nitrogen (vegetable waste, grass).
 - Perennials (plants and shrubs that have a lifecycle of over two years – dandelions, thistles, bay etc.) should be avoided as they will take over the heap by rooting.
 - Compost mixture should be aerated by turning it over regularly and allowing it to get wet without losing moisture.
 - Covering your compost with cardboard apparently helps moisture to get in, while it also prevents it from evaporating.
 - The minimum space for composting should be no less than 1 meter squared.
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**How many reindeer does it take to change a light bulb? Eight!
One to screw in the light bulb and seven to hold Rudolph down**



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**What is the best evidence that Microsoft has a monopoly?
Santa Claus had to switch from Chimneys to Windows.**

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.

**What do you call a scary reindeer?
A Cariboo.**

Coffee Mornings

After the success of last year's coffee mornings we will be aiming to repeat the feat this year. We will be holding events in April, May and June. The dates are not finalised yet so be on the lookout for these, there will be posters on the notice boards and gates and no doubt another newsletter will be out before then. 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 with a bit of luck the odd cake or two) and a chat. There will also be the 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 someone will always make use of them.

**What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
Frostbite**



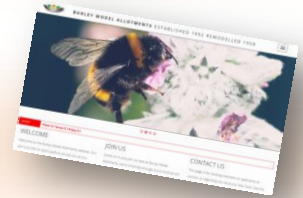
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Did you hear about the dyslexic devil worshipper? He sold his soul to Santa.

Website

As we told you in the last newsletter the website has been updated, The Events page has been updated and included are the events occurring at the Emerald Headingley Stadium. We have also updated the Library pages where you can find the minutes from the Annual General Meeting, Committee Meeting minutes, Newsletters, Policies and a number of other documents pertaining to the plot. You can also use the website to contact us if you have any issues. We have also posted the photos in the gallery from this year's Annual Show there are also videos from last year and this year's show's for you to view.



**I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas. She told me
"Nothing would make her happier than a diamond necklace"
So I bought her nothing**

And Finally

Please call into the hut for your supplies we will have potatoes, onions and shallots available for sale from the end of January, 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.

***Please enjoy the festive season and from all of us at
Burley Model Allotments we hope you all have a***

**Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year.**



How does Darth Vader like his Christmas turkey? On the dark side.
