

GROUNDBREAKING!

Spring 2008 NEWSLETTER

of THE LOW MOOR ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION



For your diary: AGM April 20th 11am outside new shop

The New Shop

Due to the miracles of voluntary assistance* and fundraising the shop is now open and Frank has completed the internal fitting, stocked it and a team of volunteers will staff it each weekend. There remains some building work on the roof to be finished and the planting up but as spring moves on, the whole project should be completed, with the Council taking responsibility for the demolition of the old shop. The committee will then heave a sigh of relief and get back to their own plots!

The shop is now open: Sat.12-1.45 Sun 10-12

** Volunteers are still needed to help prepare windows — Could you do some light work for one or two weekend mornings towards the end of April? Please leave your details in the shop — Thanks !*

Community Kids Plot HELP!

A full report of 2007 activities is on the Plot Noticeboard, but in brief : the Community Kids' Allotment is getting known outside the Fishergate area and is being seen as a model for other community schemes to look at. Heworth Ward are looking into setting up something similar and even RHS outreach workers, based at Harlow Carr but working with community groups and schools in the Harrogate area, came to visit us.

Again we are grateful for the continuing support of Oxygen Insurance of Leeds, a York Community Pride grant and, for the development of the Nursery Allotment, a Local Network grant. However, the Kids' Plot won't continue without the efforts and commitment of the organisers (three out of the four are plotholders on Low Moor) as well as the support of others who step in to help staff the allotment from time to time.

We could really do with some more people being involved. If you would be interested to do one Saturday afternoon (1.45 — 4.15) per month, or even better two sessions a month, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact Angela on angela.johnson17@hotmail.com or see Angela or June in the Shop on a Saturday lunchtime. As a regular helper we shall ask you to complete a CRB check, but it is painless and it won't cost you anything! And working with the kids can be fun and very rewarding.

The Committee

Roles and Contacts

Frank Smith

Shop

franksmith888@yahoo.com

tel: 01904 448409

Jenny Darrell

Chair

tel: 01904 448339

Sue Hughes

Site-letting secretary

s.hughes@yorks.j.ac.uk

Angela Johnson

Treasurer and one of the Community Kids' Plot organizers

Sarah O'Grady

Rotavator, strimmer and newsletter

tel: 01904 612301

Ernie Darrell

Groundsman

ALSO CONTACT ALL THE ABOVE VIA THE SHOP

Are you an Experienced Gardener Ready to Pass on Some Advice?

Would you be interested in acting as a friendly "mentor" to support one of our nursery plotholders? Please get in touch if the answer is "Yes"

Community Nursery Allotment

By the time this Newsletter reaches you the Nursery Allotment should be in full swing. Plot 112 has been transformed since last year and we now have 8 beds available to be worked by a combination of Kids' Plot "Graduates", keen to continue their gardening; two schools; and inexperienced gardeners on the Waiting List at Low Moor. These are people ready to try things out on a smaller basis, with support from more experienced gardeners, prior to taking on their own plot when one becomes available.

Five sessions of training are being offered to Nursery Plotholders — "*Getting Started*", "*Planting up a Fruit Bed*", "*Protecting your crops the organic way*", "*Composting and Comfrey*" and "*Pruning and putting the plot to bed for winter*". If you are an inexperienced gardener starting out on your own allotment and think you might be interested to join in these sessions, please get in touch with Angela or June (contact details as for Kids' Plot). There will be a few extra places available.

Bonfires

Please bear in mind that bonfires might cause or exacerbate physical health problems for your neighbours and be considerate when deciding to light one. Green waste is better composted or 'skipped' and if you must burn then please ensure it is a big dry fire which will combust quickly with minimum smoke.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Skips have been requested, but as yet dates are still to be confirmed — check in the shop or on the noticeboard

Wildlife Survey

Chris Robertson is conducting a wildlife survey. She is keen to get as many of you as possible involved and draw on all your knowledge and skills in this area. Forms will be available from the shop and directly from Chris who can be contacted at c.e.robertson@hotmail.co.uk or on 01904 466863

Walks and talks are planned with dates to be announced on the notice boards and the website.

Waiting List : There are plots available!

Strimmer and Rotavator Hire

Please take advantage of the strimmer and/or use those secateurs to trim back hedge boundaries — you are responsible for your own hedges/fences etc. and the Council expects paths to be kept clear for easy access.

Machetes should not be required for reaching the top of the site!

There is also a rotavator to help you break up those undug beds.

Each costs £10 per day or £5 for a half day; the money is used for maintenance and any excess goes into the shop.

Contact Sarah O'Grady on 01904 612301 (usually on answer-phone, but do leave details and she'll get back to you).

Pick-up is on Kilburn Road, so, very handy!