

GROUNDBREAKING!

Spring 2007 NEWSLETTER

of THE LOW MOOR ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION



First, thanks to Al & Kester for all their wonderful work in helping to get Low Moor Allotments vibrant again.

Hello from the new committee!

We will be carrying on Al & Kester's good work with your help. We hope to resurrect the 'recognition awards' for plot improvers etc. next year as well as maintain the site, shop and other developments

With your Help!

We are now waiting for planning consent for the new shop which we hope to have by July enabling work to start in September. We have sufficient funds to start and hopefully to finish but we need volunteers to labour (light work included no special skills required) over the weekends from early September to November. Please offer a day or two, or more even. Frank cannot build alone and we are doing our best to stop him trying!

Please either leave your name on the list in the shop or call Sarah and leave your name and the day you can help on her answer phone and she will add your name to the list. Remember this will be *your shop* not just ours!

Plot update

There is only 1 free plot left now and a waiting list of 37 folk anxious to start digging — Sue is continuously organising viewings to shift the last remaining few.

In tandem with this, **May 16th** is council allotment check day and Judith Ward will be visiting the site with Susan to see that all plots are being worked and kept according to the council regulations etc.

Therefore, see right for some gentle reminders and topical tips :

The New 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.ac.uk

Angela Johnson

Treasurer and one of

the Community Kids'

Plot organizers

Sarah O'Grady

Rotavator, strimmer etc

tel: 01904 612301

Ernie Darrell

Groundsman

Kate Evans

kle@york.ac.uk

ALSO CONTACT ALL ABOVE VIA THE SHOP

- *Hedges need to be no more than five feet high*
- *Dandelion heads, cow parsley, and other rampant growth should be cut back, especially where it blocks paths.*
- *Try sweet peas up the runner bean poles*

Developments :

New Community Plot

Fledgling plot holders have taken several beds on the new community plot so they can get a taste without being overwhelmed by greenery of a weedier kind.

Takers include ex-community kids plot participants, two schools, and folk from the waiting list. We think this is a really fantastic way to get a feel for gardening and an indication of what it might really involve.

New links with Community Policeman

Sean Simpson is our new pro-active community policeman and he will be assisting us with reports of vandalism.

Please don't ignore any vandalism however small or even if you feel it is pointless mentioning it. If you report to Frank or Susan they will pass it on to Sean or if you spot destruction in progress and feel able to then report direct to Sean yourself on 0845 6060247

We are asking for a more visible Mayfair Security presence over this summer.

Community Kids Plot

Will also be the venue for a course on edible gardening for childcare groups on May 17th.

Plot Numbering

You may notice numbers appearing on your gates. Not Big Brother!

This is to assist the police with identifying where vandalism might be occurring and also for health and safety reasons to make plots quickly identifiable should anyone be taken ill.

There is a site map which will be put onto the notice board to assist with map reading.

What we offer :

Shop

The shop is open every Saturday 12—2 pm and Sunday 10—12 pm and stocks most of what you are likely to need. It is staffed by volunteers to whom we all owe a debt of thanks. It is self financing but non-profit making so bargains to be had.

Rotavator & Strimmer for hire

Help keep those weeds and grass down and those paths clear and break up those undug beds. £10 per day or £5 half day.

Monies go for maintenance and any excess into the shop. Contact Sarah O'Grady on 01904 612301. Pick up on Kilburn Rd., so, very handy!

Petanque (Boules?)

Social evenings with friendly people each Thursday 6.30 pm over the summer.

Please check notice boards for details. You can bring a bottle of wine, flask of tea and chat while you play.

STOP PRESS : SKIP DATES

1 - 4 Jun	Landfill & Green
27 - 30 Jul	Landfill & Green
14 - 17 Sep	Green only

Thank you & goodnight from Al


Dear Allotmenters

It is now 4 years since I chaired the first meeting of Low Moor Allotments Association. In that time much has changed, not least on my own plot, which has become much more weedy! Since the formation of the Association, much has changed:

- we have gone from less than 50% tenancy to a long waiting list
- we have raised over £20,000 to improve the condition of the site
- many abandoned sites have been reclaimed, including the former tip, which has become the popular *petanque* (French boules) pitch
- we have revived the Shop to become a thriving resource
- we have established the award-winning Community Kid's Plot
- we have a website that attracts praise from other Allotment Association across the UK and even internationally

Security was a burning issue (literally) when we started the Association. Sadly, though things have improved, security remains our greatest challenge. Part of the intention in forming the Association was to improve security for everyone by creating a sense of community, which would in turn encourage us all to look after our neighbours. In this, I believe we have achieved our greatest success. Again and again, I have been heartened and sometimes simply amazed by the generosity shown by Allotmenters in helping others. Amongst those who have been most generous are the other members of the Committee, past and present, who have freely given their time and effort for everyone's benefit.

It is now time for me to step down and go back to my plot to do some weeding. I leave behind me a healthy hedge, which I hope will outlast us all, and a number of unfulfilled hopes and plans. I am confident these will progress, as long as everyone continues to muck in and help out as generously as they have over the past 4 years. And with that.....
GOODBYE!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Oswald". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.