

## PLANT SALES

Plant sales began on Sunday 7th May, thanks to Frank and his green fingers. The number and quality of the plants have been quite amazing. While many of us are still in bed, Frank is at the poly tunnel planting and watering and returns in the evening to water again. He still manages his own plot on top of all this.

The funds raised are going to be crucial to meet future repairs to the site, such as the fence which, with the new lease, we will be responsible for.



## NEW MEMBERS

At the last tidy up day, a group of volunteers cleared a plot that had recently been vacated.

The member had only had the plot for a couple of years but had obviously inherited a huge amount of junk which was hidden with weeds and various items at the bottom of the plot. It was a very unpleasant task with broken glass, rotten wood with rusty nails, kitchen worktops etc and required a full skip. At over £300 per skip this is a huge chunk out of association funds. To try to avoid this happening it was decided that from 1st May new members will be asked for a £50 deposit. The deposit is refundable if the key is returned and the plot is left in a reasonable condition.

Please can everyone look at their own plots and remove any items which have been brought on to the site thinking it might become useful but has never actually been used.

## WATER BATHS

Thank you to the response received about the need for baths. The cracked bath has been replaced and we now have two spare baths. When the water is turned back on in April there are always repairs needed. Iain McKinnis (plot 73) does a great job checking and repairing any damaged baths/pipe work.

Thank You Iain

## INSURANCE

The terms of the new lease have increased the insurance required up from £5 million to £10 million. This is for third party liability and does not cover individual plot holders. To avoid accidents please can everyone take responsibility for the area around their plot ensuring there are no trip hazards or items which could injure anyone passing by such as, broken glass. As compost bins tend to be at the bottom of our plots they can often be neglected areas "out of sight, out of mind" It is generally the bins that have been built, that spill out on to the paths and can be a problem.

Anyone who has a plot next to a hedge is responsible for keeping the hedge trimmed and brambles cut back. The annual hedge cutting is done later on in the season after the birds have flown their nests.

## TOOLS

There is a collection of second hand tools in the Trading Hut. If you are in need of a spade, fork etc please ask Rob. If you have any gardening items you would like to donate to the Association please leave them at the Trading Hut on a Sunday morning when the shop is open.

## **OPEN DAY**

To celebrate National Allotment week this year, we will be holding an open day on Saturday the 12th August. We will need a sub committee to organise events and volunteers to show people around the site. Please let Chris know if you are able to help. [littlemoorsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:littlemoorsecretary@gmail.com)

## **TIDY UP DATE, 11th June**

Hoping we can get another good turnout at the next tidy up day on Sunday 11th June. There are a variety of jobs which need tackling. Please bring gloves and a wheelbarrow and meet at the Trading Hut at 10 am.

## **ROTOVATOR**

The Association has a rotovator which cannot be rented but can be used by a trained member. If you need some of your plot rotovated please speak to Rob at the Trading Hut and he will pass on your details. There is no charge but a donation to the Association funds is appreciated to cover fuel and maintenance.

## **WEED SUPPRESSANTS- is it time to ditch carpets?**

Some allotment associations and councils across the country have banned the use of carpets altogether on their sites. This is from long experience of the effects of carpet, especially where a plot has been left uncultivated. Many carpets and underlay have ended up being buried in the ground as their time as a suppressant has effectively passed.

Carpets may well have a use in covering compost bins- but plastics will still disintegrate into the compost we dig into the soil.

Carpet will not kill off weeds; it will suppress them and prevent seeds germinating. Recent experience of clearing plots tells us that carpet is not something new plot holders are happy to inherit nor leaving plot holders keen to dispose of before they leave – they therefore become a nuisance.

Just a plea then- we have no plans to ban carpet – but there will be an increasing likelihood that inspections in future will consider how the use of carpet is being managed

## **TRADING HUT**

### **SEED SWAP**

Thank you to those who have left seeds at the Trading Hut. Please help yourself to any you might want.

Any excess plants/produce can be left on the round table by the Trading Hut for anyone to take. Please don't leave anything that is unlikely to be wanted.

The collections for the Food Kitchens will start in June. Boxes will be left by the Trading Hut to put any food to be donated. An email will be circulated with more information.

## **TALLEST SUNFLOWER ,HEAVIEST PUMPKIN COMPETITION**

Hopefully there are some sunflowers and pumpkins being nurtured for the competition later on this year.

I understand that many years ago there was a scarecrow competition which had a lot of entries. You can email Chris [littlemoorsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:littlemoorsecretary@gmail.com) to let us know if you would be interested in doing that

*Happy Gardening Everyone*