

URBAN GREEN CITY COMPETITION

We were delighted to hear that Hellen on Plot E has come first with the best half plot this year.

Hellen became a member in March 2022 and has done an amazing job with the plot. The judges were particularly impressed with the compost heap built from old garden furniture

It was disappointing that the other entries we submitted did not win a place. Anyone who enters the gate half way down the South side must be impressed with the transformation of the first small plot on the right as you enter. Dee has battled over the year, removing a tree trunk and transforming the plot into a neat and productive plot.



KEEPING PATHS CLEAR

A reminder to plot holders that if you border a communal path you should keep the path free of obstructions and it would be very much appreciated if you could trim back any bushes or trees that overhang communal paths either from your own plot or from communal hedging, including of course your own boundary paths between plots.

Brambles make grass cutting very tricky for Rob and Tony who do the mowing on the main paths.

The annual hedge cutting will take place on a Sunday in October. Date to be circulated nearer the time.

SALES FROM PRODUCE

The income generated from produce is going to help greatly with the future expenditure we will face for the upkeep of the site. As outlined in the proposed lease from the Freemen maintenance of fencing and gates will be the financial responsibility of the Association.

If you have any excess fruit or vegetables please bring them to the Trading Hut on Sunday mornings or alternatively if you would prefer for your produce to be donated to a charity please see the signs on the gates.

CITY ALLOTMENT SHOW

It was disappointing last year that the show was cancelled. Fortunately it is going ahead this year and the information about the show was recently circulated by email.

Urban Green are very keen for plot holders to enter the competition. If the show isn't supported it may not go ahead next year which would be a great shame. There are a large number of categories with prize money for the winners.

GREEN MANURE

Its a good idea to cover soil in winter - Why?

- protect soil surface from compaction by rain
- add nutrition
- prevent soil erosion in adverse weather
- smother weeds
- improve soil structure
- holds in carbon - environmentally beneficial and labour saving

This year I'm planting Phacelia seeds. After a few years of trial and error (legumes, grasses, mustard for example) I have found Phacelia the most user-friendly and labour saving. My soil is fertile and full of worms. Its also very pretty

This is what the flower looks like - you see fields of it sometimes as farmers use it.

Denise Plot 38A



PLOT INSPECTION

A comprehensive site inspection carried out recently has identified several plots which need attention. Keeping on top of the weeds at this time of year is a never ending task but it can be frustrating when neighbouring plots leave their weeds to seed and spread.

The cultivation guidelines state that 75% of the plot must be cultivated and paths to be kept cut. If you are struggling to maintain your plot please get in touch.

HELP NEEDED SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER

Several fruit trees have become too large and need to be cut down. There is also a large Hawthorn which needs to be removed. (ornamental trees are not allowed) This means we need a large team of people to help with the clearing away of branches. Please bring a wheelbarrow and gloves.

It is explained to all new members that there is an expectation that all members participate at least once a year at tidy up days. Maintenance of the site is the responsibility of us all.

BEECHGROVE

If you haven't already found this programme on BBC, it's well worth a watch. Unlike a lot of gardening programmes which are filmed in the South, it comes from Scotland which makes it easier to relate to when it comes to germination and what will survive in our conditions. It offers a huge amount of guidance over a variety of settings. There are plenty of episodes available on iPlayer.

SPARE TOOLS

There are a large number of second hand tools in the Trading Hut. Please have a look on Sundays and if there is anything you would like please offer a small donation.