

Longbarrow Allotments Grapevine

STOP PRESS ITS NOW OFFICIAL LONGBARROW ALLOTMENTS IS BRITAIN'S BEST ALLOTMENT SITE

We have just received the news that Longbarrow has been Judged Britain's Best Allotment Site in the Kitchen Garden Magazine Competition.

The competition which is judged by officials of the National Allotments Trust has been running for three years and we have been runners up for the previous two years

Our all round attention to the overall condition of the site and our increased community involvement with the help at three local school projects and with the Holdenhurst and Hospital fetes has obviously tipped the balance ..

Anyone who has followed the competition in the Kitchen garden will know what high standards we have been up against

At the end of the day it is the condition of your plots that has been the major factor.

Well Done Keep It Up

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

July 2009

The 2009 growing season is coming to a close, and what a strange season it has been.

We had the searing heat of June followed by the rain of July. What, I wonder, will August deliver?

It has also been a very busy summer so far. In early July the produce we donated to the Bournemouth Hospital fete raised over £200, thank you to all who contributed.

We have recently had the judges from 'The Kitchen Garden' magazine round looking at our site for the best site competition. At the time of writing we have not heard any update, we are holding our breath.

The Council judges have also been around assessing our site to determine Bournemouth's best site.

On 18th July we had our most successful open day ever! We will be sending a donation to the National Gardeners Trust as usual, the remainder will 'help to keep rents down'.

Well done and thank you to everyone involved

P.T.O

Bank holiday Monday 31st Aug is the annual Longbarrow show and barbeque. This is the highlight of our year and is designed to be fun for all with the vegetable flower and fruit competition and free barbeque.

Over the past few years the competition has been modified to make it possible for anyone to enter and enjoy the excitement. and this year sees even more changes there really is something for everyone with items like the longest heaviest scarecrows and following the success at the open day children's competitions. Sogo to the shop, get a schedule and entry form have a look around your plot and see what you can enter. last year when the judges toured the site they said they saw so much produce that would have won prizes.

Remember show day is a fun day with a free barbeque and drinks

So don't miss out

Bournemouth Hospital Fete

For many years the Longbarrow allotments have supported the hospital fete by donating vegetables fruit and flowers to be sold on their produce stall and this year was no exception and with the produce stall raising over £200 the organisers and Longbarrow committee would like to thank all those who donated

Wilf Marshall Memorial

As reported previously a memorial seat has been purchased with the money donated by the members of Longbarrow allotments together with a commemorative plaque and this will be unveiled by his daughter Lynda at the show on Mon 31st Aug.

As mentioned in the chairman's report we have also purchased a new Trophy in Wilfs name to be awarded by the judges to the best individual entry at the show .So an entrant with just one item could win this.

Topical Bees

I have received a letter from Mary Dunford Plot 11a highlighting the current demise of the honey bee in our country and informing me of a W.I initiative to encourage more people to consider keeping bees particularly on allotments. I have raised this subject and apparently members have in the past asked if they could keep bees, but we are not allowed under the terms of our lease as they are considered as livestock. However as gardeners we must do every thing we can to protect this important part of our food chain I.E by not using harmful sprays and perhaps planting sweet peas in with runner beans etc. Thank you for the letter Mary

August Bank holiday Monday is show day. Dave Stone, our show secretary, has produced a supplement to this newsletter telling you about the changes this year. The show schedule and entry forms will be available for collection from the shop shortly.

We have purchased a new trophy this year with some of the money raised in the collection carried earlier and we have called it "The Wilf Marshall Memorial Trophy". This will be awarded to the person who, in the opinion of the judges, stages the best single entry in the show and will be presented by Wilf's daughter Lynda. This means even if you only enter one item you can still win a trophy.

Also on show day we will be 'unveiling' the bench we bought in memory of Wilf.

Also with this newsletter is the latest 'Arkwright's News'. This tells you what is happening in the shop. Buying your garden sundries from our shop is the best way of keeping rents down.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the show, the usual BBQ etc will be available.

Good gardening.

Peter Whiting
Chairman

Best Kept Plot Competition.

This year we were judged by Bournemouth East Allotment Society and the results are

1st	Plot 110/111	178.5 points
2nd	119a	156.5
3rd	109	153
4th	7/8a	147
5th	51/52	146.5
=5th	57/58	146.5
7th	1	146
8th	93/94a	145
9th	75	143
10th	19/53	134.5
11th	10a	132
12th	42	124.5
13th	25	121.5
14th	97	90.5

The Best Newcomer Prize goes to plot 39
With special commendations to plots 26A and 64
Congratulations to all who took part

Open Day

What a day this was only our third open day but by far the most successful, so much so that the planned tractor rides from the Holdenhurst fete had to be cancelled as there were too many cars on our site for the tractor to turn.

The decision to coincide the open day with the fete was made following the accidental success of last year and subsequent meetings between their organisers and our association, the fact that our open day is in the morning and theirs is afternoon makes for a very enjoyable day.

We entered into their Scarecrow competition our Superb entry produced by Irene Scarlet was given a highly commended. Hopefully some of you will have been inspired by the magnificent entries throughout the village and will be entering your own at our show on the 31st Aug the theme is once again film titles.

The day was also a great success financially and we were able to give a donation to the National Gardeners Trust. And the balance to our funds which help to keep our rents down. The Treasurer will give details at the A.G.M.

Many thanks to all the helpers who made the whole thing happen the committee were particularly pleased with the number of helpers and the amount of produce donated.

Well Done Everyone

Result of May Word Search

Ans The Best Site in Bournemouth

The Winner was Mrs A House Plot 6

Well done and thanks to the record No of entrants. Collect your £5 voucher from the shop

Shop News

A separate sheet on shop news is enclosed with the newsletter this time but it is worth remembering the importance of the shop.

Apart from the convenience of having on site supplies of just about anything one could need on an allotment at a very competitive price the small profit made on the items together with other monies raised at other functions helps to keep our rents at one of the lowest levels in the country.

The money generated by rents alone would not cover the council rent, the water rates and the electricity bill so that the treasurer is dependent on the other revenues to balance the books.

The exact figures will be reported at the A.G.M. in November as will the small increase in rents notified at the last A.G.M.

The Shop is open almost every morning and two afternoons in the peak growing season. So before you go buying anything elsewhere remember they don't help pay your rent.

Aug Prize Quiz

Cryptic Clues to Garden Fruit Flowers Or Veg

- 1 Sugary Bill
- 2 Smart Beast
- 3 She looks sweet upon the seat
- 4 Part of the eye
- 5 Tinned Milk
- 6 This waits for no man
- 7 Sugary vegetable
- 8 Wise man
- 9 Does it keep Dracula away?
- 10 She lives between two hills
- 11 Emotion in the fog
- 12 Please cut back our old branches

Now is the time to prune out all the raspberry canes that have fruited and tie in the best of the new shoots