

Longbarrow Allotments Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

July 2008

I find it quite amazing that the year is slipping by so quickly – perhaps it's a sign of getting older.

It has been a funny growing season. I think it's due to the persistent cold winds we have had for much of the spring and early summer. My dahlias are at least two weeks behind normal.

We have also arrived at the “results season”. The results of the “best plot” competition, judged again this year by North Bournemouth Allotments, have just arrived.

They are as follows: 1st – John Miles, plot 51/52; 2nd – Chris Searle, plot 109; equal 3rd Alan Foot, plots 57/58 and Mike & Mary Pidgley, plot 90.

A full list of all results and points awarded will appear on the notice boards – probably by the time this newsletter is published.

The judges of the Kitchen Garden magazine competition, to decide Britain's best allotment site, visited us on Tuesday 22nd July. We know we are in the top three but, at the time of writing, we do not know where we finished. I would say the judges were not making encouraging noises but we will have to wait and see.

Now a sour note – the thieving is continuing. Plot holders are still losing crops.

If **you** are the thief you should realise that when you are caught, as you surely will be, you will be immediately evicted from the site and association.

To everyone else I say please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to a committee member immediately.

On a happier note we held a very successful open day on 12th July when everyone who attended had a very enjoyable day – we also raised over £300 – some of which will be donated to the National Allotment Gardeners Trust.

On August Bank holiday Monday we will be holding our annual show – another fun day.

Full details appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Longbarrow has also featured in the August edition of the “Grow It” magazine and on Saturday August 9th we will feature in the “Independent” newspaper.

All this helps to raise the profile of allotments which benefits us all in the long run.

I have taken up too much space already so I'll just say good gardening and good luck.

Peter Whiting
Chairman.

Annual Show and Barbeque
Bank Holiday Monday August 25th

Our Fame Is Spreading

Since our last newsletter we have appeared in the magazine Grow It we have been visited by the Independent Newspaper, Who are doing an article on allotments. We have been judged by the magazine Kitchen Garden and we are in the final three of their competition Britain's Best Allotment site Hopefully we can improve on last years second place and Peter is still advising on Joe Swifts allotment in Gardeners World. If nothing else all this fame should spur us all on to take pride in our own plots.

Wildlife on the Allotment The Good The Bad And The Ugly

Good or bad allotments are a haven for animals and birds.
On the plus side, many animals and birds feed off the insects that are decimating our crops; on the minus side they can be destroying the crops themselves. As in all walks of life there is a fine balance to maintain.
Most of us enjoy seeing the birds and animals that inhabit our allotments and are happy put up with small losses. We encourage owls to nest, hoping they will feed on vermin. Birds on the whole are welcome, with the exception of pigeons which do so much damage and perhaps larger birds such as rooks and crows.
Foxes have tracks across the allotment; pheasants nest and grass snakes keep warm in tool boxes over winter Toads and frogs inhabit ponds, mice make nests in compost heaps and of course there is the ever present mr. ratty (who we are trying to evict by fair means or foul.)
During the course of this year I would like to make a list of birds and animals that inhabit our site. If you see anything unusual or out of the ordinary could you please inform me Jill Owen Plot 1 Tel 259886 or leave me a note in the hut. I would be most grateful.

10th Anniversary

This November sees the tenth anniversary of Longbarrow allotments at this site and we will be having a special evening in conjunction with our annual bonfire night final details are still being worked out So keep an eye out for further details in the newsletter or notice boards

Quiz Night

Thursday May 15th saw yet another successful quiz night with the hall full to capacity and other possible teams turned down.
Thanks go to our own resident quiz master Ray Carver and to all the ladies who arranged the catering with their usual excellence .The winners on the night were Jill and Richard Owens team The Dead Heads this was a wonderful evening .Make sure you book your team early the next time we run one as numbers are restricted by the size of the hall and its first come first served.

News Release

Hi Fellow Allotmenters, its time to start thinking about the Annual show set for Bank Holiday Monday 25th Aug. In this respect please be advised of a change to the points scoring awards for the Heaviest and Longest classes 21-28 of the show schedule. You will appreciate that entering the show is all about achieving points . So to make scoring fairer we have decided to award points for 2nd and 3rd in these classes .These changes will put another 24 points in the pot to be won ! It also gives everyone a chance to win something So Go On Have A Go. Its Fun.
Do not forget this years Scarecrow Competition This years theme is Films such as James Bond , Mickey Mouse Etc.
Dave Stone Show Secretary
**ENTRY FORMS FROM THE SHOP
STAGING BY 10.30am
FREE BARBEQUE FROM 12.00am**

Answers to May Quiz

- 1 Little gem Lettuce
- 2 Aaron Pilot Potato
- 3 Victoria Plum
- 4 Home Guard Potato
- 5 King Edward Potato
- 6 Streamline Runner Bean
- 7 Excalibur Parsnip
- 8 French Breakfast
- 9 All Year Round Lettuce
- 10 Golden Gourmet Shallot
- 11Gardeners Delight Tomato
- 12 Money-maker Tomato

The winner with the most correct answers Is Iris Stone Plot 63
Well done Iris collect your 5£ voucher from the shop.

Complaints Corner

When you cut hedges do not push clippings under hedge as it kills them off. Also Do not wash Veg and tools off in Water butts as this could spread diseases such as Club Root it also fills the butts with mud

Amenity Allotment Competition Result

1st place	plot 51/52
2nd	plot 109
3rd	plot 57/58
=3rd	plot 90
5th	plot 33
6th	plot 25
7th	plot 119a
8th	plot 1
9th	plot 65a
10th	plot 121
11th	plot 29
12th	plot 66
13th	plot 65
14th	plot 97
15th	plot 42

August Prize Quiz Cryptic Garden Plants

- 1 Sugary Bill
- 2 Smart Beast
- 3 Prudish Emblem
- 4 Quadrupeds Gauntlet
- 5 This Waits For no Man
- 6 Cut Off
- 7 Sugary Vegetable
- 8 Wise Man
- 9 Wed a Precious Metal
- 10 Mrs Bouquet
- 11 She lives between the Hills
- 12 Emotion in the Fog

All winning entries are put into Wilfs Fedora and the first one out wins a £5. Shop voucher

**Its Showtime
Don't Forget Aug 25th
Entry Forms from the Shop
All entries must be staged by
10.30am
Have A Go Its Great Fun
Don't forget the Scare crows
But Come Along it's a Fun Day**

Trokes Trumpet

Three years ago I entered my first Longbarrow show worried I was going to look silly against all the experts it wasn't at all like that and I won the novice trophy. I felt the same this year as I entered the New Forest Show but it was great fun and I got a 2nd for my Onions.
But that is nothing compared to Tony Stevens who won the novice trophy the year after me at our show, this year he had four prizes at the New Forest so if we can you can .
But Only If You Enter