

Longbarrow Allotments Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

The calendar is quite clear, it is "British Summer Time". Step outside without your coat on and you might wonder!

It will improve – I promise! The plot, at the moment, is not moving but give it time, it is only early April after all.

Anyone who has been into the shop recently will have noticed a vast increase in range and changes to layout. This is mainly, but not only, due to our treasurer Martin and his wife Pauline. My thanks to them. If you are about to buy something for your plot, or your home garden, please try our shop first. If we sell it the chances are it will be considerably cheaper. The profits from the shop runs the Association's social events and generally subsidises rents etc.

In February we had a very interesting and informative talk from John Trimm, thanks are due to John Troke for arranging this.

Further on the subject of social events we are holding our second Quiz Night on 15th May. Last years event was very enjoyable and successful evening.

Entry forms for this event can be obtained from the shop.

At the shop you will also find entry forms for the "best plot" competition. This competition is judged twice, this year by North Bournemouth Allotments. The first judging is in late May followed by the second in late July. The schedule is included with the entry form and this explains how judging is carried out. On the entry form there is a question regarding the presentation evening. It is self explanatory but please ensure you vote. This year you cannot be entered in the competition unless you complete the entry form and vote. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE.**

We will, again, be entering our site in the competition run by "Kitchen Garden" magazine. Last year we were runner up in this competition and it would not take much more effort to "go one better" this year. Please take a critical look at your plot and ensure that it is as weed free and tidy as possible. Remove heaps of rubbish, clear the far end of your plot if this has been neglected and try to put the whole area into full production.

Well I've run out of ramblings and it just leaves me to wish you all good gardening.

Peter Whiting Chairman

Star of Stage Screen and Compost Heap

More Knowledgeable than Joe Swift and better looking than Monty Don ? Its Peter Whiting our chairman .

Those of you who watch B.B.C's Gardeners world will have seen Peter advising Joe Swift the presenter who has recently taken on an allotment as a project for the show .The plot was completely overgrown and had to have mechanical diggers to scrape off the top surface then Peter .(in his role as national champion allotment holder)was brought in to advise on what to do next.

I think even Peter was amazed at how much time he was given and he will be back again from time to time. So if you didn't see it keep looking he did a splendid job and who knows perhaps a star is born ?

May be if you bring your newsletter along to the open day you could get it autographed

JT

Quiz Night

By popular demand we are holding another quiz night on Thursday 15th May Starting at 7.30.p.m. at the Longbarrow Hall

John Trimm F.N.V.S

A full house at the Longbarrow Hall on Feb 21st enjoyed a superb informative and entertaining evening given by John Trimm. John who is one of the top exhibitors and judges gave a talk on growing vegetables to Perfection and whilst he highlighted some of the excesses that some showmen go to for example growing nine foot long parsnips in oil drums on raised beds most of his produce is grown on an allotment no different to ours and even if you don't want to show, growing perfect veg. is certainly something to strive for .

Having said that who knows it might mean more interest in our annual show on August 25th
Many thanks to the girls who put

Annual Open Day

Following the success of last years open day, despite the rain, it has been decided that we will hold another this year and it will be held on Saturday 12th July. The format will be similar to last years , Produce stall, bookstall, barbeque.etc something new will be a repeat of the highly successful Seed Swap run by Chris Searle at the John Trimm evening. Please put this date in your diary and if you have any ideas on other items to make the day a success or if you can help, or supply cakes produce etc. please let any member of the committee know.

But Most important Be There
July 12th

STOP THIEF

It is almost beyond belief that in such a peaceful, friendly environment .With birds singing neighbours chatting and kind hearted souls looking after less able and poorly members of our lovely Longbarrow community that we could have anyone who would stoop so low as to steal anyone 's produce . Sadly we appear to have someone this sick.

Towards the end of last year we had a number of members reporting losses particularly, soft fruit and in the last few weeks we have had asparagus beds being robbed .

The committee are not prepared to sit back and see this continue and are taking steps to try to stop this happening. Firstly we have contacted the local police who are getting the local community officers to patrol at random times and to check that anyone there, should be there.

In order to have proof that you are in fact the plot holder we are having metal tags made with plot numbers on which should be attached to your keys so that if asked you can verify who you are .

There will no doubt be occasions when someone has a legitimate reason to be on another's plot but at least this can be verified. We are sorry if you feel this is an infringement of liberties but we are determined to root out the culprit and when we do they will be immediately evicted and possible legal action taken .

Please keep vigilant and do every thing to help maintain our wonderful community

Britain's Best Allotment Site

Once again we will be entering the competition to find the best site in Britain. Which is run by the Kitchen Garden magazine in association with the National Allotment Gardens Trust. As you may remember Last year we came second but the fact that last years winner can't enter this year does not mean we will win this year you only have to see the revitalised North Bournemouth site to know we will have a fight on our hands. The most important thing is for every individual to make sure their own plot is kept in a first class state.

Annual Vegetable and Flower Show Monday August 25th.

It may be an early reminder but now is the time to think about planting and planning. It's only our own site show, no deadly serious competition (although I intend to beat my son in law this year) so why not have some fun and enter something. More detail in next newsletter

Site Inspections

This months plot inspection has given us a few concerns' some plots have become overgrown with weed, which is about to seed itself. Please consider the plot holders around you who are making an effort to keep their plots weed free. Richard Owen. Vice Chairman

JANUARY QUIZ

Find the Flowers

- 1 Animal in a hurry
- 2 Sugary Bill
- 3 Fallen Water Crystals
- 4 Smart Beast
- 5 She looks sweet upon a seat
- 6 To remind one
- 7 Prudish emblem
- 8 Quadrupeds Gauntlet
- 9 Part of the Eye
- 10 Churned milk in a Vessel
- 11 Scottish Emblem
- 12 Tinned Milk

Change of Address.

Please keep us up to date with any change of addresses please inform Wilf in the shop

May Quiz

Well Known Fruit and Veg Varieties

- 1 Small Diamond perhaps
- 2 Flyer from a Scottish Isle
- 3 Fruit fit for a King
- 4 Dads Army
- 5 He would have been but for Mrs. Simpson
- 6 It would do well in a Wind Tunnel
- 7 You couldn't pull it from a rock
- 8 Winter, Spring ,Summer, Winter
- 9 Perhaps Croissants, Baguettes etc
- 10 Precious Food Lover
- 11 We should all be happy about this
- 12 Win the Lottery perhaps.

A bit more difficult this time but have a go even if you cant get them all. Remember the winner gets a £5 Shop Voucher. Good Luck

JANUARY QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Bulrush
- 2 Sweet William
- 3 Snowdrop
- 4 Dandelion
- 5 Daisy
- 6 Forget Me Not
- 7 Primrose
- 8 Foxglove
- 9 Iris
- 10 Buttercup
- 11 Thistle
- 12 Carnation.

Thanks to our record number of entrants. The winner of the January Quiz

Is R Smithers Plot 97

Well done pick up your shop voucher from Wilf

Amenity Allotment Competition 2008

or best kept plot competition.

There are some outstanding plots on the site please enter this years competition entry forms available from the shop.

There are lots of prizes to be won so have a Go.

Quote

Gardening starts with daybreak
And ends with backache

Tenth Anniversary

November 25th this year is the tenth anniversary of the Longbarrow allotments

If anyone has any brilliant ideas how we can celebrate this event let us know. Thanks to all contributors please keep it coming .To John Troke C/O the shop.