

# *Longbarrow Allotments Grapevine*

## **CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS**

January 2009

Happy New Year everyone.

This is the first newsletter since we lost Wilf Marshall. Elsewhere in this letter there is a tribute to Wilf so all I will say here is that we will all miss him so much.

Most of you will know we have been holding a collection to buy a bench with a remembrance plaque on it for Wilf. We need to close this collection very soon so please come down to the site a.s.a.p. if you wish to contribute.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary at our present site we decided to give each plot holder a jute shopping bag, with the Longbarrow logo embroidered on it. If you were a plot holder before 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008, our tenth anniversary, and have not collected your bag please call in.

We held our annual "mince pie day" and Christmas raffle on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. Although the attendance was a little disappointing we had a very enjoyable couple of hours. My thanks go to those who attended and especially to those who organised the event and carried out the work.

We still have a few prizes left in the shop, so come down and see if you have won.

In 2009 we will again be entering the "Kitchen Garden Magazine" competition to find Britain's best allotment site. We have been placed second for the last two years so please think how your plot could be improved and pass on any ideas of how the site as a whole could be improved.

Later in the year there will be an opportunity for individual plot holders to enter the "Best Plot" competition organised by the Council. More details will appear in the next issue but briefly you complete an entry form, your plot is then judged, by officials from another allotment site, in May and July. There are cash prizes up for grabs for the first three and a presentation evening in October.

That's enough from me for now, let us hope for better weather in 2009  
Good gardening.

Peter Whiting  
Chairman

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Thursday 20th Nov When 44 members attended. The Chairman opened the meeting by paying tribute to our recently departed president Wilf Marshall Who will be sadly missed by all .He then went on to highlight the many successes of the past year and thanked all those who had contributed to all the various events and helped in the many tasks of running our very busy and successful association. We have been runners up for the past two years in the national best allotments competition and urged every one to endeavour to keep their plots in good condition so that we might go one better this year.

The treasurer gave his report and pointed out that because of the rising costs, even with last years rent increases, without the profit made by the shop the association would have made a loss ( this should always be remembered when you purchase items at Garden Centres almost certainly you are paying more and they aren't subsidising your plot rent) He went on to say that we have received notification from the council that our rent is going up by £1100 which in turn means that plot rents will have to rise by approximately 10% next year.

The Election of officers followed starting with a proposal that John Miles be elected as the new president this was agreed unanimously and accepted by John .

For the newer members John was life long chairman of the association until he retired two years ago but remaining as a committee member, and although I'm sure he wont mind me saying that although he is not far behind our past president in years he still managed to win the best kept allotment prize last year .Well done John you are an inspiration.

Most of the previous committee were re elected together with two new Volunteers on the night.

### List of Committee Members 2009

President John Miles	Plot No 51
Chairman Peter Whiting	Plot No 110
Treasurer Martin Mancey	Plot No 7
Secretary Jill Owen	Plot No 1
Show Secretary Dave Stone	Plot No 63
Newsletter Editor John Troke	Plot No 119a
Purchasing Officer Seeds Mary Pidgley	Plot No 90
Committee Members	
Richard Owen Web Editor	Plot No 1
Chris Searle	Plot No 109
Mike Pidgley	Plot No 90
Ron Owen	Plot No 19
Pauline Mancey	Plot No 7
Roger Smithers	Plot No 97
Glynis Bellamy	Plot No 88/99

### Shop Opening Times

As well as Sun Mornings when the shop is manned by our Rota the shop will be opened most mornings by Martin Mancey or Peter Whiting If they are not in the shop there will be a notice with their plot no in the window.

From the end of Feb Pauline Mancey will be opening the shop Wed and Fri 2pm till 4pm

## Wilf

Wilfred Marshall, our highly respected and much loved President , died suddenly at his home on November 2nd. Aged 93.

Unlike many people, for whom the office of president is a sinecure, Wilf was without doubt , the longest serving and hardest working servant any society could possibly have .

Wilf as he was always known was born in a small village in the Forest of Dean where his father was a miner. He was educated in the local school and then by scholarship to the Grammar school.

Like so many allotment holders Wilf learnt or inherited much of his gardening skills and Knowledge from his father cultivating the large garden attached to their home. Right to the end he still practiced many of the same methods and adhered to the same dates as his father did.

When I asked him recently if he had sown his Broad Beans he said that it was too early. November 5th was the correct day according to his father so November 5th was right for him.

After serving in the Royal Artillery during the War as an A.A. Gunner in the dock area of London and coming through unscathed, he was accepted for training as a teacher and attended training college at Bognor Regis.

Upon completing his training he obtained a job at South Rd School in the Old Town area of Poole where he eventually became the Deputy Headmaster.

Coming to live in he Strouden area he applied for and was given an allotment on the newly developed site in Throop Rd known as Longbarrow Allotments and was an original owner.

Wilf is first mentioned in the original minute book of the association as being a member of the first committee formed to explore the possibility of forming an association. It was decided to do this and he was a committee member of that first association and has remained an active and hard working member ever since. He became Treasurer in 1967 and was already helping in the hut and thereupon became responsible for ordering for all seeds, fertilizers etc. When he retired as treasurer in December 1990 the turnover was £4480 and the profit £371.47. Although he was no longer treasurer he still continued to do most of the day to day work in the shop including the weighing out of all the potatoes which in those days were supplied in 1 Cwt sacks.

Wilf became President in 1993 following the death of Mr Carne in his hundredth year and many of us thought Wilf would also reach that age but alas it was not to be.

John Miles

### Quiz Night 21st May Longbarrow Hall

By popular demand we will be holding another Quiz night on Thurs 21st may

Anyone who has been before will know that these evenings are a sell out and are on a strictly first come first served basis . A list will shortly be appearing in the shop so add your team name A.S.A.P Teams are usually four people but if you cannot make up a four just put your name down and we will try to join you up with someone

Quiz master will be our very own Ray Carver again

#### Thanks For Stamps

We have received a letter from Jasmine Webb of Oxfam thanking all those who have donated used stamps , well done keep them coming . JT

We sow with all the art we know

And not a plant appears

A single seed from any weed

A thousand children rears

anon

## October Prize Quiz

Something different this time  
A snail sees a row of lettuces at the top of a sloped garden, 20 metres away.  
Every day he climbs 5 metres up the slope , but at night slides 4 metres back.  
How many days will it take him to reach the lettuces?.

### Answer to October Prize Quiz

16 Days

Winner of the £5 shop voucher is B Rowan plot 27

Well done and thanks to all those who entered

F	T	H	E	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	L
E	R	U	N	N	E	R	B	E	A	N	O
N	S	N	G	B	E	G	A	B	B	A	C
N	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	A	R	R
E	I	L	E	T	T	U	C	E	B	P	O
L	N	C	E	L	E	R	Y	P	E	A	C
C	A	U	L	I	F	L	O	W	E	R	A
A	C	C	W	S	P	R	O	U	T	S	I
R	H	U	B	A	R	B	A	L	R	N	R
R	L	M	O	T	N	O	I	N	O	I	E
O	M	B	C	I	L	R	A	G	O	P	L
T	E	E	N	O	T	A	M	O	T	T	E
S	B	R	O	A	D	B	E	A	N	S	C

### January Prize Word Search

Cauliflower	Potatoes
Beetroot	Broad Bean
Onion	Lettuce
Pea	Spinach
Runner Bean	Carrots
Rhubarb	Celeriac
Tomato	Cabbage
Sprouts	Cucumber
Pumpkin	Garlic
Celery	Parsnip
Fennel	

The Letters that remain spell the name of a place  
Thanks to Pauline Mancey for this Quiz

## Jobs For Feb/Mar

Although February is often the coldest month of the year unless you spend time this month when planting really starts in march you will not be ready. So when ever the soil is dry enough get your spring digging finished. Also get your early potatoes chitting in a cool light place

Things to plant  
Feb

Shallots  
Onion sets  
Garlic  
Broad Beans  
Rhubarb

Towards the end of the month early potatoes under fleece also carrots .

March

Its All Systems Go with a vast array of things to plant and sow so don't leave it too late

## Shop News

The Shop is positively bursting with new seasons stock.

Now In  
Potatoes  
Onion sets  
Shallots  
Garlic

A Wide selection of Seeds

Remember we only have stocks once a year so if you want to buy at these very low prices and have a good range of varieties hurry on down.

Also over the next few weeks all the other ancillary items Composts, fertilisers seed trays ,feeds etc. etc. Will be arriving

### Dates For Your Diary

April 12th Coffee and Hot Cross Buns  
May 21st Quiz Night  
June 14th Visit By Nat Veg Society  
July TBA Open Day  
August 31st Longbarrow Show  
Dec 20th Coffee And Mince Pies