

Longbarrow Grapevine

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Spring 2009

After one of the coldest winters for many years it is now, defiantly, spring.

Our busiest time of year is upon us, and not just on the plot.

Quiz Night - On 21st May we have our third quiz night. The size of the hall regulates us to 14 teams of 4 so if you wish to enter please complete an entry form, available at the shop. When 14 teams have entered no more can be accepted – so get your forms in quick.

Open Day – this year it is on 18th July from 10a.m. to 4p.m. This time we have joined with Holdenhurst village, who hold their open day on the same date.

We are looking first for volunteers to build an association scarecrow(s) for judging on 11th July. This can be anything we like but it must be visible from the gate, (I suggest a gardener of some sort ‘working’ in the flower border inside the gate). Any other suggestions gratefully received.

We also need helpers on the day – if you are available please add your name to the list in the shop.

More volunteers will be needed to build a display of veg., fruit and flowers in a marquee at Holdenhurst on Friday 17th July.

All donations of produce for the display and for the stall at our site will be gratefully received. If you can help please bring them to the shop by Friday 17th.

CCTV –The committee has decided to install CCTV in an attempt to combat the thieving that has taken place in recent years. It was realised that, as we are not a private residential property we need the permission of all our members before we can install the camera. Attached to this news letter is a consent form, please sign and return to the shop a.s.a.p.(If you receive this newsletter by e mail please download the form from the web site or collect a form from the shop.)

Finally, don't forget the ‘best plot’ competition. Forms and directions are available at the shop, good luck.

Good gardening – phew.

Peter Whiting
Chairman

The correct answer was The Longbarrow Allotments

The winner of this months £5 shop voucher pulled from Peter's best Fedora was Caroline Carver Plot no

Congratulations and thanks to all those entering, its nice to know someone out there is read-

May Prize Word Search

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

Cos
Asparagus
Celeriac
Okra
Squash
Yam
Borage
Gherkin
Sugarsnap Pea

Watercress
Mint
Pepper
Onion
Basil
Leek
Gourd
Mooli
Kale

Radicchio
Seakale
Thyme
Salad
Herb
Pea
Chives

The letters left are a place

Pheasant Shooting

We have had disturbing reports that plot holders have witnessed someone shooting pheasants on the site .Apart from being illegal at this time of year it is not with the committee's Knowledge or approval and whoever is doing it is asked to cease immediately.

Wheelbarrows

Please replace all wheelbarrows after use

Editors Corner

I have had a distinct lack of items for the news letter lately and this has certain consequences firstly it makes it very difficult for me to think of enough things to fill four pages. It makes it less interesting and more disheartening for me, it makes me think no one gives a !*^(_+) so please this is your newsletter there must be something you can add perhaps the odd funny or article you have read. . Please anything to John Troke at the shop or phone no in last edition

Quiz Night 21st May

Entries are already flooding in for the Quiz Evening so if you haven't put yours in yet get cracking or you may be too late. Because space is limited the number of four person teams has to be restricted and it is strictly first come first served .
This year as before our quiz master is our own Ray Carver, we wont give his plot No as he doesn't want to be embarrassed by bottles being left.
This is probably the most popular night at Longbarrow

Allotment Aid by Longbarrow Members

As reported previously Peter Whiting and myself have been involved in building a new allotment plot at Queens Park Junior school. The deputy head Alex Roberts was so impressed after visiting Longbarrow with a party of children, she found an area of rough ground at the edge of the playground, applied and got a grant from the local LED and contacted us through Caroline Carver one of our plot holders for help.

Peter and I designed a series of raised beds , one high enough for wheelchair users to access. Year six children armed with measuring wheels, metre rods etc. measured and marked out the site, our own Paul (P&R Landscapes) weed treated the area and during the Christmas holidays we built it. What we hadn't banked on was snow, the eight tons of soil generously donated by Eco Compost of Hurn must have weighed twenty eight tons when we moved it into the raised beds.

Having completed the allotment we were asked to come and advise and instruct the gardening club, an after school activity and you can imagine our surprise when forty five children turned up.

I have since learned that Chris Searle, One of our committee members has also done a similar project for the Wessex Autistic School where the children are much older
Its nice to think we are passing on our love of allotmenteeing to others.

JT

Kitchen Garden Magazine Best Kept Allotment Site

Once again we will be entering the above competition . Having come second in the past two years we are keen to go one better this year and would ask all plot holders to help by making sure their plots are as good as they can make them.

Plot Inspections

As you are probably aware two members tour the site on the second Sunday of the month to ensure plots are well cultivated, with a waiting list in excess of sixty we are under pressure to ensure space is not being wasted.

We have recently instituted a concern letter, this is not a warning letter but merely expresses concern that all or part of a plot is falling behind. If you have any reason for not being able to work your plot i.e. ill health please let us know and often we can do something to help.

Generally this year we are very impressed with the state of the majority of plots well done.

Important Security Notice

In an effort to combat the continuing problem of stealing of produce from plots, the committee is proposing the installation of security cameras .

In order to do this we must obtain the consent of all plot holders , and to this end a consent form is supplied with this edition of the newsletter. It is ESSENTIAL that all forms are completed and handed back to the office.

The committee are determined to stamp out this problem and remind the culprits that anyone caught taking anything off another persons plot without permission will immediately lose their membership and possibly face prosecution .

If anyone is suspicious you are reminded that all plot holders should carry a tag with their plot number on.

Best Kept Plot Competition

Have you put in your entry yet? For those of you who are new to the association, every year the council run a competition for the best kept plot which is judged by members of another association. There are many prizes including best newcomer so come on have a go. Entry forms are available in the shop .

This year judging is on May 18th-23rd and July 20th-25th. So don't delay

Open Day July 18th

For the past two years we have successfully run an open day. This started in 2007 with national allotment week and it went so well it was decided to make it an annual event.

Last year our open day accidentally coincided with the Holdenhurst village fete we were in the morning they followed on in the afternoon and many of our participants went on to enjoy the events in the village. One item of particular interest was the Scarecrow competition, the standard outside almost every cottage was amazing.

It was suggested that we contact the organisers to see if they were interested in coinciding again this year and they were very keen on the idea so much so a working party has met to see where we can join the two.

We are still working on this but some of the ideas are to join the scarecrow competition plus possibly a hanging basket competition. There will be tractor rides to bring people from the village to Longbarrow. Plus all our usual stalls .

If anyone has any ideas or if you are willing to help on the day please contact any committee member or leave a note in the shop . In the meantime start thinking of your scarecrow entry.

More about this later.

Wilf's Seat

Many of you will have donated towards buying a commemorative seat for Wilf Marshall our late president . Over £200 was raised and a seat is being purchased It is hoped that the seat will be unveiled at our open day on 18th July by Wilfs daughter Lynda.