

grass CUTTINGS

JULY:2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Summer moves on so quickly. In no time at all we are past mid summers day. I hope you are now seeing a rewarding show of flowers and vegetables repaying the work of the spring.

Unfortunately, on the evening of 14 May we were visited by vandals resulting in much damage to sheds and greenhouses. It was all a very sorry sight the next morning. Fortunately, in the case of sheds many could be restored with little or no long-term damage and cost. Broken glazing obviously cannot be repaired. Fortunately for those who were badly affected there has been help in the form of fund raising organised by Louise Virabi (Plot 27) off her own bat. The result was a substantial contribution to the cost of the worst affected. Thank you Louise for doing this it is much appreciated.

Going forward if you have a plot which backs onto any of our boundaries and have any concerns about gaps in the hedge or fence, please let a member of the committee know so it can be looked at.

The committee have been active through the summer. We have been having something of a tidy up. You may have noticed the loss of the broken and rusting wheelbarrows. The few that could be salvaged have been restored or kept and two new wheelbarrows

have been bought. The intention is to clear out the white shed on the middle path to house them — leaving a bench in the old shelter for those who want to take cover from the rain.

A tree came down in the corner by the community plot over the winter and that has now been taken out by the Council.

We hired two skips over the bank holiday weekend enabling us to clear out much of the middle shed next to the Trading Hut — recycling what we could to plot holders in the process. This will increase the storage for the Trading Hut next year which will make things easier for us.

We had an extremely successful allotment picnic on a very sunny Sunday afternoon in July. The scarecrow competition sparked a lot of interest with good entries from the young and not so young. There were prizes for all. See the separate section.

Two final points:- (1) we now have a new mower so can I please remind you about keeping the paths clear and (2) you will soon be hearing about our AGM which we will be holding in late September/October.

Chris Abbott, Chairman

NEW PLOT HOLDERS

Welcome to **Jo Eyden** who has recently taken over **Plot 43a**. We wish you a rewarding and productive allotment experience.

TRADING HUT NEWS

The Trading Hut continues to be well supported by plot holders. We will be selling the following overwintering onion sets and garlic:

Senshyu Japanese autumn planting onion sets
£1.00 for 250g

Thermidrome White Garlic
50p per bulb

They should be on sale the first weekend in September — details will be emailed to all when delivery is confirmed.

Please note that our last opening day this growing season will be Sunday 25 September.



Seed Potatoes

We're approaching the time of year when we order seed potatoes for next spring. If anybody has any feedback on this year's varieties we'd be very interested to hear.

Email Janet Cripps: janetcripps6@ntlworld.com

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SCARECROW COMPETITION

July 2022

The summer season started with a (hopefully annual) scarecrow competition open to all ages. Eleven very different entries from adults, children and combined family efforts were submitted, lovely traditional crows and others of a more quirky design. Spotting and admiring crows has given plot holders a reason to wander round the site instead of heading straight to their own plots to get on with the never ending tasks of weeding and watering! And hopefully this will have inspired more entrants for next year.

An independent judge and veteran of village scarecrow competitions herself, was appointed to score each crow on defined criteria to decide the winners.

This was a daunting task as entrants had put a great deal of effort into their exhibits and she was conscious of the fact that it had rained the night before judging and some paint or dye had run but taking these things into consideration the following crows and their owners were decided upon and the results announced at the allotment picnic the following week.

Although the judge felt the weight of responsibility in her task she thoroughly enjoyed herself and has asked if she can judge next year's competition!

So plot holders save your old clothes — you have plenty of time to plan next year's crow.

FIRST PRIZE

Jill Little Plot 45
'The Lady of the Plot'

'So elegant, even in posture, beautifully put together with a mixture of handcrafting and various materials, taking reference from Peter Rabbit with enormous attention to detail. Movement provided by flapping garments.'

SECOND PRIZE

Adrian Horn (or his son) Plot 49c
'Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader
(May the force(d) rhubarb be with you)'

The judge thought this was a brilliant idea which made her smile and all the more impressive because, whilst there is a lot of commercial equipment available for this, imagination and readily available items from the allotment had been used instead. She particularly liked the 'control panel' and garden cane light sabre.

The blowing and flapping of the liner used for Darth Vader should have some deterrent effect on the birds and squirrels.

THIRD PRIZE

Sue Taylor Plot 31b

A robust and beautifully executed scarecrow using a pleasing mixture of materials and attention to detail on the chosen theme.



Jill Little Plot 45



Adrian Horn Plot 49c



Sue Taylor Plot 31b



Andrew Rowley Plot 1



David Millar Plot 54b



Hilary Shorthouse Plot 48



Janet Cripps Plot 44



Louise Black Plot 36



Louise Virabi Plot 27



Louise Virabi Plot 27



Rosemary Budd Plot 19b

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ANNUAL ALLOTMENT PICNIC

10 July 2022

Again this year, our picnic was blessed with glorious summer sunshine so that we were grateful for the shady trees on the community plot. There were more attendees than I can remember at previous picnics with a lovely mix of 'faithful old stagers', newer members and many more children and families than usual. Was it the lovely weather or the anticipation of the results of the scarecrow competition that brought so many people out on a very hot Sunday?

Everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the opportunity to chat with old friends and get to know new plot holders or those from different parts of the site. Children played together and climbed trees or organised their own games while the adults enjoyed relaxed conversation and swapped gardening tips.

If you weren't able to join us this year perhaps you will be able to come next year to this very relaxed event and may the sun continue to shine on all our picnics.

Valerie Mulligan,
Social Secretary

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