



Burley Model Allotments

Burley Model Allotments Association The Cardigan Centre 145-149 Cardigan Road Leeds LS6 1LJ
Email: bmaasecretary@gmail.com www.burleymodelallotments.org

Newsletter

Spring 2019

You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen; it said 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice.

Our Long-Awaited Start to Spring

Well here we are and Spring has sprung, well it was nearly Summer in February, and now here we are in the throes of winter yet again. Ah, what to do, well we take it on the chin and no doubt there will be other body blows before Spring, Summer and Autumn finally arrive. We can only hope that with some kind of help we manage to get through the year unscathed. The weather aside, we will do our best to try to ensure that you have a pleasant and joyful time on the allotment this year. So to help with this, we will be running our popular events such as...

Coffee Mornings and Plant Sales



*You can't buy happiness
but you can buy coffee
and that's pretty close.*

These events will be run on the 11th of May and the 8th of June in the Trading Hut. As well as meeting new people, it's a great way to come and see everyone you do know and have a cuppa, perhaps some cake and swap stories, oh and pick up a few plants as well. There's not just coffee but tea as well and the odd raffle (well judge for yourself how odd it is when you see the prizes). We do our best (honest), If someone can add a prize for a 2 week holiday in Barbados, I'm pretty sure we will keep it to ourselves. Seriously, if you can donate a prize it's always welcome. A week in Scarborough would do though...

Annual Show

This year's Annual Show will be held on Sunday the 1st of September. We hope that you will have a number of entries to add to this year's show. This really is our showcase event, and although we do not have a showcase, we try to make this a fun day with loads of cakes (please if you can help with this it saves us stealing them from Morrison's and they're not as good as yours). We try to add other events to enhance the day and again, if you can help with this, so much the better. You know how to get in touch with us. (There is a website we set aside for such things).

Annual General Meeting

This year's A.G.M. will be held in October and we will follow the usual format (see the website for full details and copies of the minutes). This is your chance to tell the Committee how they are doing (and join us, although you can join us at any time) and to make any changes to the way the site is run. Let us know of changes to the Rules or Constitution that you feel are needed. Further information regarding A.G.M. and Annual Show are on the website, as well as a few other articles that we hope may pique your interest (everything we do is all on the website).

Apple Press Afternoon

Last year we had a great time, we hired the equipment from Leeds Urban Harvest and this year we will be doing it again (twice). The apple juice was wonderful and if you are lucky it turns into Cider...

I usually meet my boyfriend at 12:59 because I like that one-to-one time.



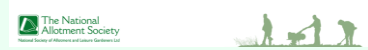
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The advantages of easy origami are two-fold.

What we missed

For those of you who missed last year's Annual General Meeting (and for those of us who forgot to add this to the last newsletter), it was agreed that we will cease membership of the National Allotment Society; this organisation was formerly known as the National Society of Leisure Gardeners and each member of Burley Model Allotments Association was a member as a part of your membership fee. It was agreed that given the cost per member and the benefits from this organisation, this did not provide value for money. As a consequence of this, the money saved on membership fees will be offset to pay the water rates. These, as you can imagine, have increased over the years, with last year's being higher than normal. However, should you wish, you can join this organisation as an individual member, please feel free to do so.



**I've just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday.
I'll tell you what, never again.**

Tree Survey



We have carried out a survey of all the trees on the site, mainly the non-fruit trees and self-seeded ones in the hedges. This has identified a number of diseased and damaged trees on the site. We told you in the last newsletter that we would keep you updated with our plans, so here they are. We intend to use this report as a reference document and, as and when plots become vacant, we will remove the non-fruiting trees from the site. This is in line with the rules of the Association and also complies with Leeds City Council policy regarding allotment sites. So please remember (as we said in the last newsletter), if you are planning to plant trees on the site, use those with a dwarf rooting stock (otherwise we end up with a Jack and the Beanstalk scenario) and that non-fruiting trees are not allowed on the site.

Wire Fence

Introducing a new offer for members. Wire Fence is not just a company that provides wire fencing, although it does that as well, it also has a wide range of products that can be used (and abused) on the allotment. These include horticultural fleece and netting for fruit trees and cabbages, fleece for carrots, and many more items. You can find a link to their site on our website. From the "Offers" page on the website click on the Wire Fence website, from there at the top of the page select "All Categories" and choose from the drop down list what you require. We have organised a 10% discount for members of the Association, just use the discount code called 'burleyallot10'. It can be validated by adding it into the 'coupon' section on the left hand side of the checkout page. The coupon code can be used on any product purchased from the Wire Fence pages.



**If we had a world without walls and fences
why would we need Windows and Gates?**



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**Just finished reading a book called The History of Glue
I just couldn't put it down.**

Plot 41b

Due to the size and difficulty in letting this plot, it has been decided to turn this over to a wild flower garden. Now don't let's get out of hand here. We are not encouraging plot holders to leave parts of their land to become uncultivated, full of dandelions and other weeds, for therein lies madness. We do not want you to leave plots to grow wild, there are more than enough people on the waiting list who want to use the land in a productive and responsible manner. No this is an initiative we have to encourage more insects into gardens. Most of you will know that bee colonies are on the decline, some of you will also be aware of the decline in insect species that are hurtling down the path to extinction faster than a Formula One car going down the Hangar Straight at Silverstone (yes we understand the irony here). Well we can all do our little bit to halt this. Even Silverstone has a wild meadow! It just gets crushed by motorhomes and caravans once a year. So this is our little bit and all we can hope is that it encourages you to do your little bit. We will plant this little corner to encourage wildlife. So what can you do? Well here are a few ideas.



**Crime in multi-storey car parks.
That's just wrong on so many different levels.**

Insect Friendly Planting

Provide Shelter

Butterflies, bees and other pollinators need shelter to hide from predators, get out of the elements and rear their young. Let a hedgerow or part of your lawn grow wild for ground-nesting bees. Let a pile of grass cuttings or a log decompose in a sunny place on the ground. Or, allow a dead tree to stand to create nooks for butterflies and solitary bees. Artificial nesting boxes can also help increase the population of pollinators in your area. Wooden blocks with the proper-sized holes drilled into them will attract mason bees.



Plant nectar rich and pollen rich flowers



The most important step you can take is to plant a pollinator-friendly garden. Choose nectar rich and pollen rich plants like wildflowers and old-fashioned varieties of flowers. The best plants for bees tend to be cottage varieties, so if your granny grew it, chances are the bees and other insects will love them too. Bedding plants like busy lizzies, petunias, geraniums and begonias may look colourful but provide little or no nourishment for bees and other insects. Late summer is a critical time for bees and insects when food is often short. Fortunately there are masses of colourful late-summer plants they'll happily feed on that can provide plenty of nectar and pollen for them.



**I went down my local ice-cream shop, and said 'I want to buy an ice-cream'.
He said 'Hundreds & thousands?' I said 'We'll start with just the one.'**



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My cat is recovering from a massive stroke.

Insect Friendly Planting

Provide food and water

A pollinator garden will provide pollen and nectar. Consider adding special feeders to help attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Bees, birds and butterflies also all need water. Install some kind of water garden, a birdbath or a catch basin for rain. Butterflies are attracted to muddy puddles which they will flock to for salts and nutrients as well as water.

**Does anyone know how to fix some broken hinges?
Well my door is always open.**

What more can we do?

Go organic

Many pesticides – even the organic ones – are toxic to bees and other beneficial organisms. There's no need to use powerful poisons to protect your garden from insects and diseases. In the short term, they may provide a quick knock-down to the attackers, but they also kill beneficial organisms. In the long term, you expose yourself, family, pets and wildlife to toxic chemicals and risk disrupting the natural ecosystem that you and your garden inhabit.

**My friend told me how electricity is measured
I was like Watt?**

Glyphosate

We understand that we are banging on about this and realise that a ban on its use would be unenforceable. We would ask though, those of you who have a need to resort to using weed killer such as Roundup then do not do this just because you have had a letter regarding the state of your plot. Spraying chemicals to remedy lack of effort is not really what is required. We all realise that an allotment is a lot of hard work and you may feel the need to use weed killer or other chemicals on your land, although why would you when you then grow things in the same soil for you and your family? Anyway, if you do feel the need to use weed killer, please do this in a responsible manner. Read the instructions on the label and do not use on a windy day when it can spill onto and contaminate your neighbour's land. Ensure the packaging and empty contents of the container are disposed of in a responsible manner. In short, please use a grain of common sense when dealing with dangerous substances.

Organic Planting Schemes

Planting

Place all plants in full sun and don't be stingy with your planting - a block of three or more plants is better for bees and other insects than spacing them out singly.

One of the very best plants for bees is blue echium vulgare, or viper's bugloss, which is hard to find in garden centres but is easily grown from seed.



I was told you're not cut out to be a mime. It must have been something I said.



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**I had a dream last night that I was cutting carrots with the Grim Reaper
There I was, dicing with death.**

Organic Planting Schemes

Plants that attract bees

- Alyssum
- Agastache (anise hyssop)
- Asclepias (butterfly weed)
- Aster
- Echinacea (coneflower)
- Geranium (cranesbill)
- Monarda (bee balm)
- Papaver (poppies)
- Rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan)
- Trifolium (clover)

People who use selfie sticks really need to have a good, long look at themselves.

Organic Planting Schemes

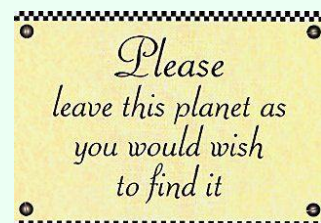
Plants that attract butterflies

- Alyssum
- Aster
- Bee balm
- Butterfly bush
- Calendula
- Cosmos
- Daylily
- Delphinium
- Dianthus
- Fennel
- Globe thistle
- Goldenrod
- Hollyhock
- Lavender
- Liatris
- Marigold
- Musk mallow
- Nasturtium
- Oregano
- Phlox
- Purple Coneflower
- Queen Anne's lace
- Sage
- Scabiosa
- Shasta daisy
- Stonecrop
- Verbena
- Yarrow
- Zinnia

Conjunctivitis.com - Now that's a site for sore eyes.

Bat boxes and a Bug Hotel

We will be adding bat boxes and a bug hotel on the site; this was agreed at last year's A.G.M. and fits in with the ethos the committee has for creating a more eco-friendly site. All the above initiatives are in line with the Association's Constitution. We are custodians of the site for future generations. It would be with deep regret that these future generations thought less of us for not leaving the allotment in a state that was not fit for them to garden on. In short it is our duty to leave it as we found it. In our case leave it in a better state than you found it.



**I bought a pack of bees from a dodgy looking bloke in my local.
When I got home I discovered one of them was dead - I'd obviously been stung.**



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A well-balanced person has a drink in each hand.

Burley St Matthias Primary School

As most of you know we have a close relationship with the local primary school, indeed they were here on site only last month. We love to see them and help as much as we can as these are the next generation of gardeners. We have asked the children to provide some drawings which we hope to use as posters for the Annual Show. In exchange for this, we will also help with a number of projects they have including a Potato growing competition where we will provide all the necessary implements and expertise. Well if we can do it, pretty sure the kids can too.



My Dad told me to invest my money in bonds. So I bought 100 copies of Goldfinger.

Spoon Carving

We are having a visit from Hollybush Farm who will be showing us how to carve spoons on the 11th May, the day of our first Coffee Morning, from 10.00 a.m. This would be part of Time to Shine, which is a city wide initiative to reduce social isolation in the over 50s. For Hollybush their Time to Shine project is called the Great Outdoors and focuses on outdoor activities and skill sharing. A spoon carving session is fun as green woodworking is one of the activities that are becoming more and more popular. We made a donation to Hollybush at the last AGM, and they'd like to give something back to the allotments - you don't have to be over 50, or socially isolated, to take part! Most of us are over 50 and socially awkward? So come along and give it a go, carve the odd spoon or two, we are pretty sure there will be more than the odd one!



And Finally

Please call into the hut for your supplies, we will have potatoes, onions and shallots available for sale still, as well as all the usual bits and pieces that you would want and expect. So don't be a stranger, call in and see us and have a chat and a cuppa.

Life is like a box of chocolates. It doesn't last long if you're fat.



PLANT IT GROW IT ENJOY IT