



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 2020

A thesaurus is great. There is no other word for it.

Coffee Mornings and Plant Sales

Here we are with another Newsletter and as you all know, it usually goes downhill from here. If nothing else, the bits in-between may make you lol. You will find that what we are doing is the same as we have done in previous years, but hey, as they say, if it's not broke don't try to fix it. We will be doing the same things again this year but, with your attendance at the events you can make a difference. There are the Coffee Mornings and Plant Sales in May and June as well as the Annual Show in September. We will also have the Apple Pressing Afternoon where you can turn fruit into alcohol, or in my case, vinegar. But hey, isn't that why we are all here, to be part of the community?

We offer more than coffee



This year we will hold the Coffee Mornings on the **2nd of May** and again on the **6th of June**



These wonderful events will be held, as they always are, in the Trading Hut after the shop closes at 11.00.

As ever, these days are a good chance to meet people, swap plants and make friends. Some know what they are doing, others pretend to know what they are doing, however we are all novices; as no one knows everything. But we all have a story to tell. Whatever it is, it's a fun time so try to work it out for yourself and best of all you get to do it twice. Failing that, you can always just come for the tea coffee and cake.

The beauty of these days is that we can meet each other and have a chat over a cuppa and cake.

If you are able to bring something with you, like a cake or some plants or a raffle prize, then so much the better. If not, just turn up on the day and eat the cakes, buy the plants and win the raffle prizes. It is a good way to make new friends and swap stories and plants and pick up new ideas.

So please come along and meet and make new friends, have a cuppa, have some cake and buy some plants. Best of all, you can come along and eat the cakes and buy some plants; failing that you can buy a raffle ticket; you never know, someone has to win.



If you can help with baked goods or items for the raffle please contact us in the Hut.

One in four frogs is a leap frog



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Jokes about white sugar are rare - Jokes about brown sugar, Demerara.

Complaints and Behaviour

Much as we like to make our newsletters light-hearted and fun, there are times when we need to, no, we have to remind everyone why we are all here, which is to enjoy ourselves and to have fun on the allotment and to enjoy each other's company, grow things and have a pleasant time. We hope that's why you are here; however sometimes that is not the case. We all hope that we can get on together and make the allotments somewhere where we can make the site a better place to live and work in peace and harmony with everyone. No small thing but it is an aim. We do however have a zero tolerance policy with regard to those who do not get on with their neighbours. If you are or know of someone who has been subjected to any form of anti-social behaviour, please let us know in writing. The Constitution states quite clearly that



10.1. We aim to ensure that no-one will be discriminated by us on the grounds of:- Age, impairment, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, race including asylum seekers and refugees, religious belief or faith, social class, gender, sexuality, gender reassignment, marital status, responsibility for dependants, trade union or political activity.

"What do you call a bunny without a carrot?" - "Hungry!"

Annual Show



This year's Annual Show will be held on **Sunday the 6th of September**. Please add this to your diary and make sure that you can attend this year. It is always good to see all your family and friends who come and enjoy the Show. We will always, as an organisation, be happy that you and your friends and family come along and see what you and your neighbours on the allotments have produced. There are so many wonderful things to amaze you. All we can ask is that everyone enters a vegetable, flower or fruit into the show and if we do, then we will all be winners. If not, buy a raffle ticket or two, then we all can win.

The road to success is always under construction.

Hollybush Farm

You may remember we made a donation to Hollybush Farm at the 2018 Annual Show. They have been in touch to say thank you and let us know that the funds went towards the Roundhouse Kitchen. The kitchen will be used as a space for volunteers to make refreshments and hopefully, later in the year, to cook some of the produce they have grown in the garden.



Someone stole my coffee cup from work today.
I'm just off down the police station now to look at a few mug shots.



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If we shouldn't eat at night, why do they put a light in the fridge?

This year's A.G.M. will be held on the **24th October 2020** at 11.30 in or outside the Trading Hut. The meeting 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 good or bad you feel they are doing. We welcome new members to the meetings at any time. The Committee meets on the second Monday of the month at 7.00 p.m. in the Trading Hut, please feel free to come along and meet us. (Because of Easter, our next meeting is on 6th April).



Do you know what's cool? - Winter.

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 on the **12th of September 2020**. The apple juice was wonderful, and if you are lucky, it turns into cider. At the very least you will end up with apple cider vinegar.

Centaurs shop at Top Man- And also at Bottom Horse.

What we missed At the Annual General Meeting

For those of you who missed last year's Annual General Meeting, and because some of us have not produced a newsletter to tell you what has happened since last year, well here are the bits and pieces we all should know. The Officers, Committee Members and Trustees elected at the A.G.M. are:

Chair: **Vacant**

Vice Chair: **Vacant**

Secretary: **Iain Smith**

Treasurer: **Helen White**

Membership Secretary: **Frank Turpin**

Stores Manager: **Tony Handby**

Show Secretary: **Elaine Wilford**

Lettings Secretary: **Lesly Best**

Publicity Officer: **Keith Barrett**

Committee Member: **Colin Halliwell**

Committee Member: **Sarah Gill**

Committee Member: **Josh Elliff**

Committee Member: **Tim Wilford**

Committee Member: **Sue Hollington**

The trustees of the Association are:

Trustee: **Barry Raw**

Trustee: **Iain Smith**

Words can't express how much I hate World Emoji Day.

A number of items were discussed at the A.G.M. to enhance the site including:

1. Providing a hard standing to the main entrance roadway.

This would cost in excess of £10,000.00 and would only benefit one or two cars but this could be offset with a grant. After discussion, it was felt that this would cost too much for the benefit it provided.

2. Fencing to the perimeter of the site.

It was agreed to get L.C.C. representatives in to discuss this and visit the site.

The guy who invented predictive text died last night. – His funfair is next monkey.



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I have a fear of speed bumps, but I'm slowly getting over it.

The rest of what we missed at the A.G.M.

3. Moving the main entrance gates in Lumley Place to a more central position.

The gates are set to one side of the road and this makes it difficult when we get deliveries. This would need permission from L.C.C. However, if approved, this would make things such as ordering skips easier. It was proposed to apply to Wade's charity to apply for a grant for this.

4. Adding a solar light outside the hut.

It was agreed by all that this was a good idea and the new Committee should look to installing these as soon as possible.

5. Obtaining a defibrillator.

It was reported to the meeting that this would cost somewhere in the region of £800.00 to purchase. There were no objections to the Committee purchasing this item.

People say I've got no willpower but I've quit smoking loads of times.

Site Inspections

As ever, inspections of all plots will begin on **Thursday 2nd April** this year. Inspections will be done every month until November. The inspections are carried out to ensure that the rules of the site and those of our landlord, Leeds City Council, are adhered to. These rules are for you, your neighbours on the plot and our neighbours in the local community and are there to ensure that we are all safeguarded from any wrongdoing. **Please be aware that all warning letters are in force for 12 months from the date of issue.** This means that, if any of us who received letters last year, the letters remain in force until 12 months have elapsed from the date on the letter. As long as we all abide by the rules of the Association and those of Leeds City Council, then all is good.

What do you call a bull that likes taking a nap? - A bulldozer!

Burley St Matthias Primary School

As most of you know, we have a close relationship with the local primary school. They will be here again this year and as much as we love to see them, they also love to see you. **They will be here on Tuesday 31st of March at 1.30p.m.** If you can be on site they would love to meet you as they love to chat with the gardeners on site and it is good to watch both young (they're under 10) and old learning from each other. We do try to help them as much as we can as we realise that these are the next generation of gardeners. We will ask again for the children to provide some drawings which we hope to use as posters for the Annual Show. We know that these were a huge hit last year, their invention and uniqueness in revealing their own interpretation of the allotments are so exquisite and charming and the beauty of their expressions filled everyone with joy. We provide help and advice to the school as they have a number of projects including a potato growing competition where we will provide all the necessary materials and expertise. We are this year looking to increase the number of local schools we work with so watch this space.



Thing is, we all just want to belong. But some of us are short.



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I was looking for some books on paranoia in the library.
Turns out they were behind me.

Nature Watch

As you know as an organisation we are committed to this project and, as allotmenters, we hope that you will continue to join us in this wondrous project. If flora and fauna turn up again this year so much the better. However the aim is to capture (not literally) all of the birds, bees, insects and mammals on the site. So to help with this project, here are a few ideas of how to make your plot a little friendlier to all.

Hedgehog Houses

Check out the wildlife Trusts website, it's a very useful site for wildlife enthusiasts. Follow the link below to find out how to build a hedgehog home on your plot.



The Wildlife Trusts

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog-home>

Remember:

Pick a shady, quiet spot to put your assembled hedgehog house and put some newspaper, leaves and dry grass inside.

Cover it with polythene sheeting (making sure it's still accessible for cleaning later on), and pack soil and dead leaves around the outside, leaving the entrance and air pipe free of debris.

Clear out the hedgehog house once a year (late March - early April) to prevent the build-up of pests. Do not clean it out if a hedgehog is in residence though!

Making a log pile or compost heap are also good options for providing space for hedgehogs to nest, and have the added bonus of attracting lots of insects for them to eat!

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.

They are testing a revolutionary new blender, but they're getting mixed results.



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I saw a documentary on how ships are kept together. It was Riveting!

Nature Watch

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.

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.

I will never forget my dad's last words
"Will you stop playing with the gun Nicholas?!"

Leeds Allotment Federation

As some of you know, or as some of you may not know, we are all members of this organisation. It was formerly known as Leeds & District Allotment Gardeners Federation. Part of the membership fees we all pay out as part of our annual rents goes to this organisation. Check out their website at:

leedsallotmentsfederation.org

Here you will find the following:

LAF represent about fifty local self-managed allotment sites and have close links with Leeds City Council. LAF campaigns to promote allotment gardening on the national stage as well through their membership of the National Allotment Society.

We now have the new membership cards from the LAF which give discounts at for plants/gardening supplies. These can be picked up from the Trading Hut.

I don't know why people have a problem with wigs. It's a look anybody can pull off!

Contact Details

It is important that your contact details we hold are kept up to date; we require these to be able to keep in touch with you in case of an emergency, to be able to send you newsletters, details of upcoming events and your annual invoice.

It is also a means of knowing that you are who you say you are. In these days of identity fraud it is imperative that you keep us up to date with your details. We need to know if you have changed your phone; email or address details in the last 12 months.

Not having your up to date contact details could mean that you may lose your plot if important correspondence is sent to the wrong address.

Why aren't dogs good dancers? Because they have two left feet!



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I used to be addicted to swimming
But I'm very proud to say I've been dry for six weeks now.

Skip

A skip for Easter has been ordered and it will be here on the 8th April. There are a number of restrictions on what we may add to the skip; these include:-

- asbestos materials;
- televisions;
- fridges/freezers;
- pesticides;
- cleaning chemicals (empty containers are permitted);
- fluorescent tubes; low energy light bulbs;
- oils; gloss or industrial paints;
- hobby chemicals (model fuel/photochemicals);
- car batteries or power tool batteries.

These restrictions are due to the regulations relating to the operation of Landfill sites and the waste management industry.

And Finally

We hope that you will come and join us at one of our events this year at least, be that one of our Coffee Mornings and Plant Sales in May and June, the Annual Show in September or the Apple Press Afternoon. Failing all that, maybe you can attend the Annual General Meeting in October. If you are unable to make any of these events, we hope to see you in the Trading Hut one day this year. Should you need our help at any time, please get in touch with us as we are here to help whenever we can. We look forward to seeing you all.



PLANT IT GROW IT ENJOY IT

Oregon leads America in both marital infidelity and clinical depression.
What a sad state of affairs.
