

The Plot Post

The Newsletter of the Lichfield and District Allotments Society

Spring 2018

Greetings from the Editor

Welcome to this copy of the Plot Post. I hope it finds you fit and well having enjoyed the festivities over Christmas and the New Year. The growing season is just around the corner and so I hope that you are all well rested after the quiet season for allotment holders.

What's been happening

Since I last wrote the Society has had another successful Summer Show in August. The number of entries were slightly down on last year at 322 perhaps due to poor weather at crucial points in the growing season. There was still plenty to keep the judges busy though. The highlights were:

Most points in vegetable and fruit classes	Pat Barden
Most points in flower classes	Dot Smart
Most points in domestic classes	Nicola Ruth

So well done to all of the prize winners and a big thank you to the usual suspects who worked hard to make the show a success again. Special thank you to everyone who entered produce.

Another successful Potato weigh in took place on 17th September. Congratulations to Trevor and John down at the Moggs for producing both the highest crop weight at 82lb 00oz and the largest single specimen at 2lb 04oz.

The Social evening on 20th October saw an attendance of over 80 and was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion with a very interesting guest speaker Mr D N Thornton FNVS who gave us a number of very useful hints to help us be even more productive on our plots. This was followed by the prize giving for the show and potato competition, a buffet supper and a quiz courtesy of Pat Barden.

The Committee

We have welcomed Keith Dinsdale and Diana Baker to the committee since I last wrote and they are doing a great job helping to bring order to the Netherstowe Site. Unfortunately Andy Evans has stepped down as representative for Christchurch so a quick thanks to him for all his hard work over the years.

Two of our reps from Cherry Orchard and Christchurch have also indicated that they would like to step down and so, at time of writing, we are looking for anyone at either of those sites who would be interested in taking over the reins.

Another vacancy which will occur at the AGM is that of Chairman. Judith needs to step down after having been parachuted in last year and doing a terrific job since then. I hope that you have all seen the adverts which have been e mailed and posted on site sheds. I have to get serious now and say that the very existence of our allotments depends upon a committee of volunteers. If we cannot form a committee we would have to go to the City Council, from whom we rent the land, and tell them that we can no longer manage the Society. We would then be at the mercy of their decision as to how to move forward. There are a number of different scenarios which they may consider but I cannot think of any of them which would benefit plot holders. At the very least rents would rise by a considerable amount and it may be that the Council would decide that the land would be more profitably used in other ways. Please, if you think you can spare just a little of your time to be Chair of our committee, come forward and let us know.

What is planned for this Year

The AGM will be held at the Social Club in Purcell Road the evening of 13th March. The starting time is 7:30 doors will open at 7:00 and, for a change, we are having a guest speaker for the first hour or so followed by the AGM. Potatoes will be on sale for the Potato Competition and, of course, the bar will be open so you can quench your thirst.

During late June or early July the Best Plots judging will take place. Your site reps will nominate a couple of plots in each category to give the judges a head start.

As the year comes full circle we will be back at the Curborough Community Centre on 18th August for the Annual Show. You will receive a mailing a month or so before the show.

The first Sunday in October will see Bill and a willing volunteer visiting the sites with the scales to do the Potato Competition weigh in.

The Social Evening is planned for 12th October this year.

I will finish by again appealing for your help as a committee member or as a volunteer at any of the above events. Contact your site rep if you feel you can give a little of your time:

Beacon Street:	Tony Lee, 01543 252118, leejandt@gmail.com
Cherry Orchard:	Jim Curtis, 01543 304839, james.curtis@ntworld.com
Moggs:	Peter Beech, 01543 251574, peterjbeech31@gmail.com Ken Alcock, 01543 307826, ken_email@alcockonline.co.uk
Netherstowe:	John Smart, 01543 300370 Vince Smith, 07957 613890, vincesmith03@mail.com Keith Dinsdale, 01543 416966, dinsdak@hotmail.co.uk Diana Baker, 01543 415977, dianabaker57@hotmail.com
Christchurch:	Heather Rourke, 07967 599661, heatherrouke@hotmail.com