

Fairfield Garden Allotments Newsletter 2

Welcome to our second newsletter.

The committee for Fairfields Garden Allotments Association are:

Chairman:	Felicity Chapple	681673	felicity.chapple@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Vivienne Ravenhill	686550	viv.ravenhill@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Helen Armstrong	681589	hippychick_622@hotmail.com
'Seed Fairy':	Louise Marshall	685031	marshall.lou@btinternet.com
Site Steward:	Bob Pullen		
Committee member:	Tony Lavers		

If anyone would like to join the committee then please give one of us a call. We are also looking for a representative for the Fairfields Garden Allotments to represent us on the Hungerford Allotments Holders Association (HAHA) committee which looks after the interests of both Fairfields and Marsh Lane.

Chairman:

We are pleased to report some excellent progress both around the site generally and on the plots. We had an excellent workday when we managed to create a new set of steps to the path and also to repair the broken path. The garden at the front of the buildings has been cleared and we have started to plant this up as a cut flower border. We also managed to clear out the gutters at the back of the buildings. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped.

On the topic of water on the site, it was always stated by Sovereign that there would not be any piped water to the site. It is not possible to get a metered supply. However we have now installed the first water butt from the gutter at the back of the buildings, and by the time you received this we should have the second one installed. The plan is to install a further 6 butts – if you know of any of the blue barrels (or any other large suitable containers) looking for a good home then please let us know and we can arrange to collect if you are unable to bring it/them to the site.

Helen and I have been meeting on the site most Saturday mornings to do some of the general clearing work, so if you have some free time then please give us a call and come along and help.

Secretary:

Three of our plot holders have taken up the option to return to Marsh Lane and we are pleased to welcome 3 new allotmenters – Edna on Plot 12, Sarah on plot 11 and Denise & Mark on plot 19.

We are looking for a representative for the Fairfields Garden Allotments to represent us on the Hungerford Allotments Holders Association (HAHA) committee which administers both Fairfields and Marsh Lane sites. Please let us know if you are interested in representing us.

Treasurer:

Good news – we have been awarded a grant from AONB to fund fencing along the far side of the site, and additional water butts, stands, taps etc. Look out for notice of a work day coming up when we will need to clear the existing fence panels ready for the installation of the new fence. Currently we have budgeted for chain link, but if we can source some additional funding then our preference is for wooden palisade to match the fence erected by Sovereign at the back of the Fairfields flats. If you know of any additional moneys we could apply for then contact a member of the committee.

Seed Fairy:

With the re-formation of HAHA we are hoping to be able to get more discounts on seeds and plants by joining with the Marsh Lane allotment holders. We are also looking to purchase some cloche hoops and bean poles etc. Let me know if you have any sources or

ideas of what would benefit all of us. Obviously it will be later in the year before we will start putting a seed order together.

I have started planting up the front flower border, but if you have any spare garden plants then please let me know and I will arrange to collect them. The plan is for the garden to be available as a cut flower border for any of the allotment holders to help themselves.

General News:

June? We would like to hold a social event for all the allotment holders – do you think this is a good idea? What would you like – barbeque? picnic?

25th July – HADCAF have asked us to host a barbeque at the end of their cycle garden tour. This will be at 6.00 and we are hoping to offer any surplus plants or produce in exchange for donations to our site funds. Please keep this in mind for nearer the time.

4th September – British Legion Flower Show

We have been given the granite worktop and sink which we have now positioned by the sheds. Feel free to use this as a potting bench. We have put a bucket underneath so hopefully we will catch some additional water (when it rains). Helen (Plot 23) has also got some granite from the same source and used it to create a raised bed. If you are interested in buying anything similar then please contact Dan Cukier on 07774 703 997 And mention that you are an allotment holder at Fairfields, and get granite offcuts at a very good price.

We are starting to create a "Rubbelry" next to the benches (you cant miss the mud pile!!!). The intent is to use the brick and flint we have all dug up on our plots to make a Rockery Style garden which will be planted with Surpluss seedlings. We will also be creating a sloped path for wheelbarrow access, running along the water butts behind the "Rubblery" and down the allotments at plot 24. The produce from the "Rubblery" will be made available for consumption by the general public with a donation tin. All monies collected from the donation will be feed back into the improvement of our site.

We have been offered some great soil, which we will investigate the possibility of putting two giant raised beds on the land on either side of the path by our new steps. This will take some time to organize, and the soil wont be available until Sept (ish) however if anyone has access to unwanted wood to make the beds or would like to be involved in creating the raised beds please let us know

We would like to where possible keep to a local theme for materials used on our site. With each news letter we will publish contact details for useful local sources. Please let us know if you know of local contacts we should add:

Little Hidden Farm: Manure, Bean Poles, Pea Sticks, as well as the obvious Farm products
01488 683253

A&C Stoneworks, Dan Cukier: Offcut granit - Raised Beds, cutting boards whatever you might find a use for

If you have any concerns or issues about anything around the site then please contact one of the committee members. We are here to represent you and try and run the site so that it works for all of us. We will also liaise with the council and HAAHA as appropriate.