

HAHA Times

We are back on our allotments

Following the Council concluding the lease for the Marsh Lane site and your appointment of a HAHA committee we have been working hard to get the site up and running and fully utilised.

Every one with an allotment in 2009 who wished to retain their plot have the same plot. All of those on the waiting list have been allocated a plot and 15 remain available. We will be advertising over the next few weeks to fill the vacant plots.

All allotmenters should have received their new agreement to sign which they need to return to Geoff Greenland with their cheques ASAP, rents are due from the 1st May.

What is HAHA

Membership of Hungerford Allotment Holders Association (HAHA) is offered to plot holders at either of the Hungerford allotment sites – Fairfields or Marsh Lane.

Membership is not compulsory, but is free and will provide access to bulk discounts for seeds, plants, materials, etc

The association will act as managers of the allotment sites on behalf of the Council and should be contacted in the event of any problems or queries with the site..

Your New Allotment Agreement

A new allotment agreement has been sent to you, based on the revised agreement with the land owner for the site and an agreement between the Town Council and HAHA.. HAHA will manage the site on behalf of Hungerford Town Council, but your legal agreement will be with Hungerford Town Council as the lessors of the site. Please however raise all management issues initially with a member of the HAHA Committee or by emailing Chairman@HAHA-hungerford.org.uk

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The 3 Big Issues Rabbits/Deer, Water & Parking



3 Improvement areas for the allotments have been identified from last year

Those of you at the last council allotments meeting are aware that HAHA had secured a £5k grant from West Berkshire Council to assist with these 3 areas plus receiving the offer of a loan from Hungerford Town Council

Rabbit fencing is being installed on the North, West and East sides of the site.

Deer fencing will be implemented on the North side of the car park, with a single gate. This work is almost complete and we are pressing the contractor hard to finish so we can remove this rabbit problem

Water is currently being progressed by a group lead by Geoff Greenland and a formal proposal and plan is expected by mid June. The solution will involve the sinking of a borehole as no mains water is available.

All Change at Marsh Lane as 41 new allotmenters start work on their new plots

How are we Doing

Total number of plots 101

Number of plots let 86

Let 85%

Total number of poles 303

Number of poles let 258.7

Let 85%

Marsh Lane the New Beginning

Following the Council meeting in April a major exercise was undertaken to review the Council register of allotment holders and the waiting list.

All existing and perspective allotment holders were contacted their, requirements determined and plots allocated.

Since clearing the waiting list the Committee will continue to promote the site and fill all vacant plots. The rent to Hungerford Town Council is fixed and based on their costs, so HAHA need to ensure a high occupancy rate to be viable and fund improvement projects.

In each newsletter we will keep you informed on the current occupancy levels and this will be displayed on the web site.

If you know anyone who would like an allotment then please get them to mail Geoff Greenland at Secretary@HAHA-hungerford.org.uk

Fairfields Allotment News

The latest Fairfields Allotment News Letter will be on the HAHA website at www.HAHA-hungerford.org.uk



Fairfield's Allotment Site

The Cleanup Begins

In order to create a pleasant environment for us all to enjoy our allotments and reduce unnecessary work the following steps are being taken:

All vacant plots will be sprayed regularly to prevent the build up of weeds, stopping these going to seed and spreading across the site.

Rubbish piles will be rationalised so that they are at the north end of the main drive and at the east end of the car park.

2 Community wheel barrows will be stored in the container to assist you in moving rubbish.

Please segregate your rubbish into stones and green waste/earth and place it on the sign posted pile

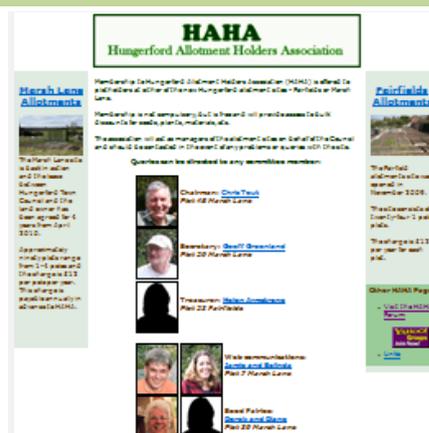
The mass of rubbish in the main drive has been removed and other areas will be cleared in the next two months

Please send your suggestions for improving the allotments by email to Chairman@HAHA-hungerford.org.uk or by posting them on the forum at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HAHA-group/>

Website and Forum

The HAHA website will include general information about the Fairfield's and Marsh Lane sites. The HAHA online forum, which you need to register with Yahoo to join, is available for HAHA members only. The forum is where specific information will be stored, including details of discounted purchasing schemes.

Your questions, comments, photos, calendar entries reviews, recipes, etc are very welcome and we hope that the forum will be widely used as a communication method between all the members



HAHA Website launched

Thanks to Belinda and Jamie we now have a website www.HAHA-hungerford.org.uk

We would like you to share your experiences in words or pictures either via the forum or by emailing webmaster@haha-hungerford.org.uk

Fairfield's Fencing

Fairfield's have secured a grant of £1000 from the North Wessex Downs ANOB to fence the north side of the site to improve physical security