



April 2009

Articles for Newsletter to: margton64-byelawmensfield@yahoo.co.uk.ac.uk

Rules and conditions

Special thanks to Janet [plot16] for all the work she put in to produce this impressive document. Everyone should have had the opportunity to read this either by receiving the final version via the internet, looking at the draft copy which was in the tool shed or the final version in the rest room. Of particular advantage is being able to send a copy to organisation when making an application for a grant.

Rest Room

Thanks to Harvey's work the rest room is now open and fully functional with a gas ring, kettle and mugs. Now the weather is improving with more plot holders about it is hoped that everyone will take the opportunity to use this facility. Please look after it and tidy away anything you have used.

Shed Roofs.

Hopefully as the weather improves the problem of the leaking tool shed and meeting room/machine shed roofs will be dealt with. Europolymers, the firm that sealed the rest room roof, free of charge, have offered to seal these roofs too. They have developed a new product which they want to test out and will monitor how it wears and,

Tool Shed

If you use the tool shed please check that others on the site want it left open. Otherwise please lock it up. There has been several occasions recently when it has been left open all night.

Report On The Bee project.

You are probably aware of the importance of bees and of the concern at the serious decline in the bee population, not only in this country but across the western world with 2008 being the worst honey crop since records began. It is said that the decline in the bee population has serious consequences for mankind because one in three mouthfuls of what we eat are dependent on bee pollination. With some fruit crops such as, apples, pears and plums depending on bees for 90% of their pollination.

It is very expensive to keep bees starting from scratch and we have been very fortunate to have secured two grants, one of £350.00 and the other of £985.00 in order to set up properly and safely.

Bees are generally gentle creatures but, like any other creature will act to protect their home if they feel threatened. The bees will be located on plot 10, Tony Ryan's plot where an enclosure has been formed from willow cuttings which will eventually grow to seven feet to ensure that by the time the bees leave the enclosure to forage they will already be above head height and climbing.



Julie our registered beekeeper

Meanwhile the enclosure will be surrounded by netting whilst waiting for the willow to grow. The bees will not arrive until June when we hope to obtain two nucleus colonies containing a young queen and 2/3 combs of bees. Hopefully these will grow into a functioning colony before the autumn, of sufficient size for them to survive the winter. We will not know if they have survived until early March when they start to fly on fine days to forage for pollen. Apparently the bulk of this early pollen, used to feed the colony comes from snowdrops and crocuses.

Assuming our bees get through the winter and the crucial months of March and April then we can look forward to our first jars of Byelawmensfield Honey in the autumn of 2010



Machine Shed.

Reg has replaced the roof of the shed and made it watertight. A further security lock has been fitted and a shed alarm will be installed too. It is intended that the new equipment we have bought, will be secured in this building. We hope to arrange a morning when instruction will be given on the use of the new machinery. The keys for this shed will be in the tool room, please do not use the new machinery until you have had instruction how to use it.

Rubbish Skips

In the past twelve months we have had six skips. We are fortunate to have in Christine Pickles [plot 26] a secretary with persuasive skills who is still managing to obtain skips. At least 50% of the rubbish placed in the skips is green matter that should be either going into compost heaps or being taken home to go in brown bins. Attempts have been made to have brown bins on the site but Environmental Services are unwilling to do so because they only collect from residential property.



Longest Tenancy

In 1966 a young man still in his early thirties took on the tenancy of a plot, like many young men he decided to do things and face the consequences afterwards. There are stories of going out for a drink on a Thursday evening and then coming to the allotment, around 11p.m to chop down the branches of trees, in an adjacent garden that overhung his plot. Nowadays Peter [plot 28] is the person to watch if you want to grow carrots successfully because Peter waits until early June before he sows them to avoid attacks by the carrot root fly.



Grants

The picture of Tom Mulholland [plot 14s] was taken when he was presented with a cheque, for £350 at a Community Foundation luncheon in December 2008. This was following an application to buy a cultivator which was successful. This has now been purchased along with a heavy duty strimmer which we have bought from our own funds.

STOP PRESS!

We have been awarded a Grass roots grant, of £873.00 from Leeds Community Foundation to purchase three 050 litre water butts.

A.G.M.

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 10-30 a.m.

ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA TO THE SECRETARY
BY 19th APRIL PLEASE

HEALTH AND SAFETY

**IN AN EMERGENCY THE
LOCATION OF THE SITE IS
LS15 7DY**

You may have noticed these signs that have been placed on the outside of the carpark toilet and the eaves of the Colton and Whitkirk fertiliser store. The purpose is to be able to direct the emergency services to the site in the event of an accident, by providing the postcode location.

Why not email your allotment news or pictures to Tony at:
margton64-byelawmensfield@yahoo.co.uk or put them in the yellow envelope
in the tool shed.