



Newsletter January 2020

AGM

The AGM was well attended over 58 attendees including members and guests, the minutes are attached please read through these and contact Sylvia if there are any omissions, mis-quotes or errors in the report.

Judging and Mayor's Award

The Judges have advised Marlow Town Council that they will no longer be able to carry out this service, therefore, MTC will be appointing new Judges for the Allotment Prize Winners for this year. Furthermore, there will no longer be the Mayor's Award for the most Unique Feature.

Wild Bumblebee Talk

There is a talk by a local expert booked for Wednesday 19th February (weather permitting) at Marlow Age Concern, 38, Glade Road, start time 8pm until late. The admission fee will be £1.00 per person to cover costs, please contact Sylvia or Maren to make a reservation.

Membership

Those of you who have not yet joined the Association or renewed membership for this year will receive a membership application form along with this newsletter. Once the membership fee has been paid, please let us know if you require a Seed Catalogue and Membership Card – the card will give you discount at Hunts Hardware Store in Station Rd.

Wild Marlow

The new group aims to raise awareness of the importance of a balanced ecosystem. Look out for Wild Marlow's fantastic Garden Campaign, launching in Spring, encouraging domestic gardeners to welcome wildlife. More information is on the website: www.wildmarlow.org.uk.

Spring is on the Way!!

Now is the time to get the allotment in order, sort out & turn compost bins and check seeds stock, along with planning and preparing for the growing year ahead.

Designing beds ensuring, good crop rotation & getting the ground ready for Spring planting with compost or soil improver. Chicken Manure Pellets are ideal at this time of year, as they can be used directly in the soil to help small seedlings get a good start, improve the soil & are great for activating the compost bin.

MAA Email Address

As a result of the new Website structure, we now have a new email address for MAA which will be monitored & checked regularly by members of the Committee: marlowallotmentassociation@gmail.com

Website

The MAA Website has now been live for some time, and is updated periodically with news and information, thank you to Loredana who has spent many hours working on this.

Please send us any photos or stories from your allotment that you would like to share to the aforementioned email address.

Face Book

MAA now has a presence on Face Book, thanks to our newest member Juliette who has set this up and updates the page regularly. This can be accessed via: www.facebook.com/marlowallotmentassociation, please let us have any feed-back regarding this.

Newsletters by e-mail

More than 180 tenants now have their Newsletters delivered electronically, which still leaves around 50 delivered by hand.

A big THANK YOU to the volunteers who do this. If any tenant would like to receive the newsletter, plus any additional news updates or items of importance relating to allotment matters via email please supply your email address, send your details to: marlowallotmentassociation@gmail.com

Allotment Site Entrance Padlocks

There have been a number of incidents last year when the locks at the entrances for both sites have been tampered with. This is a serious criminal offence and MAA is keen to ensure the safety of the tenants & the allotment sites.

Therefore, if any tenant notices someone tampering with the locks, please report this immediately to either Marlow Town Council, the local police (phone 101) or a Committee Member.

Woodchips

Woodchips will now be available at Foxes Piece, as a woodchip bay has been constructed by the entrance in Dedmere Road (near the rear School entrance). Plus, a fourth woodchip bay has been constructed at Hanging Hill to cope with demand, these are available free of charge for all tenants. Thank you to volunteers from both sites that made this possible.

Change of Address

If you have recently changed your home address, email or phone number, please let us have the new details as soon as possible.

Seed Scheme

Catalogues and order forms for The National Society Seeds Scheme are now available to all Association members.

The seeds, onions, garlic, potatoes, plants, fruit bushes and trees plus sundries and tools are competitively priced & all at an equivalent standard to those available from other suppliers.

They are supplied through Kings Seeds Company and MAA receive a discount from Kings against every order submitted.

For a catalogue please contact a Committee Member as listed. As Maren Talbot is the Seed Secretary & Treasurer; all orders should be sent to her with the payment in the envelope provided.

There is a new option to place orders online via:

<http://nsalg.kingsseeds.com>

Please contact Maren Talbot for a password & instructions.

Events

The events planned for the next few months include another Bee talk from our local expert, BBQ & Bonfire in April (weather permitting) and a NEW Event idea for Swapping Surplus Seeds & Seedlings, this is planned for April/May - more details will be in the next newsletter and available on the Website & Face Book page once this has been finalised.

Lyme Disease

There are reports that the spread of ticks carrying Lyme Disease is now prevalent in the South of England, so care **must** be taken when in woodland areas. For further details and information on this incurable, painful & debilitating disease go to: www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-surveillance-scheme

Discount

Get ready for Spring & start to plan for Spring Planting, Hunts in Station Road continue to give discount on gardening items to Association Members.

Currently in stock they have 19 varieties of potatoes, these are sold loose so as many or as little can be purchased. They advise that it is best to start chitting as early as possible.

In February onion & shallot sets will also be available & will be ready to plant out when the weather allows.

Please ensure that your membership is up to date, as it is essential that you present your Membership Card in order to claim the discount.

Chicken Manure Pellets & Rabbit Manure

We have 20kg bags of chicken manure pellets available to members for £10.00.

Rabbit manure is free but any donations to the Association would be appreciated.

Please contact Sylvia Miller – 07939 097771.

Blue Barrels

Blue barrels are available to all members free of charge, please contact Sylvia. A small donation to the Association would be appreciated.

On site emergencies

Considering the implications of a situation with the need to contact the Emergency Services. If it is not possible to unlock the gate or if there is no one else on site the Emergency Services will require access. Therefore, Marlow Town Council have posted notices on the gates of both sites, with contact phone numbers to be used in the case of an Emergency.

Your 2020 Committee

Committee Members can have several roles but perhaps most importantly, is keeping an eye open for matters of concern at both sites and ensuring that the Council is informed. They attend periodic meetings each year to discuss on-going issues and ideas for projects and events, there are also several meetings with Marlow Town Council each year to cover various matters or issues & to propose suggestions & ideas related to the Allotment Sites.

Chair – Fred Tillier (plot 53 FP) tel: 07910 904407

Secretary – Sylvia Miller (plot 87 HH) 3, The Chase tel: 07939 097771 Email: sylvia@sbmiller.plus.com

Treasurer – Maren Talbot (plot 24 HH) 4, Hazel Cl, M Bottom tel: 486640 Email: mtalbot@talktalk.net

Member – Denise Bagge (plot 66 Foxes Piece). 35, Claremont Road. tel: 483192.

Member – Pete Cooper (plot 23 HH). 2, Stanley Cl Tel: 07941 315786. Email: petecooper61@gmail.com.

Member – John Stilliard (plot 2 HH) 5, Langley Way. tel: 483909. Email: jstilliard@outlook.com.

Member – Juliette Chanoir (plot 127HH) email: juliette.chanoir@gmail.com

If any Association Member would like to be part of the Team, or would just like come along to a Committee Meeting to see what it is all about, please contact Sylvia Miller.