



Newsletter June 2021

Committee Meetings

The Committee meet periodically, at present these meetings are carried out via Zoom, the minutes of the last meeting are available on our Website & notice boards.

Surplus Crop

There are many local organisations that welcome surplus crop: Churches, Care Homes & Charities such as Once Can Trust, who give food & support to those in need in our local area. Please contact Sylvia for more details.

Protecting Your Allotment Plot

The Association was originally formed almost 40 years ago to successfully protect the Allotment Sites from a very real threat of development.

The Committee remain vigilant and continue to be prepared to take any steps necessary to defend the sites from any further threats.

It is **VITAL** that we are supported by the majority of tenants, otherwise MAA does not have a voice to represent either or both sites, should a threat arise.

Those that have not yet joined, can renew their membership with the attached form, thereby proving that you support your Allotment Site.

Communal Table at Foxes Piece

There will be a Communal Table, donated and setup by a Keen Volunteer (thank you to Mr Keen Volunteer), which will be located under the notice board near the entrance by the flats. The table will then enable tenants to leave surplus crop & seedlings etc for others to share.

There are plans for a similar one to be set up at Hanging Hill at the main entrance in Prospect Rd.

Donated Tools

MAA has received donations of a variety of surplus tools, these include spades, forks, hoes, rakes etc., plus a variety of other items including hoses, and an electric lawn mower (great for the allotment??) these are offered to members for a small donation to the Association. Please contact Maren or Sylvia.

Wild Marlow

This exciting new group is raising awareness of a balanced ecosystem, encouraging all gardeners with ideas and ways to welcome wildlife. More information can be found on their website: www.wildmarlow.org.uk

Events

These are dependent upon the current situation, there is a BBQ planned for early July, once the current situation is clarified, plus another talk in August on Dahlias by our expert Richard Bailey at Foxes Piece and perhaps another BBQ in the Autumn!!! All tenants will be notified nearer the time.

Summer is here!!

By now most tenants will be ready to gather the first crops, despite the delays that the unusual cold spell last month may have created. We do all need to keep an eye on those weeds, they creep in and can take over quickly, so now is the time to get that hoe working!!

Companion Planting

Despite all the hard work, we need help from our garden companions. Many flowers can benefit our plot, for example Nasturtium & Feverfew attract the insects to lay eggs on the flower stems, instead of on our crop. The English Marigold, Wild Poppy and Hollyhock to name a few, will attract numerous varieties of beneficial insects, however, be cautious of Foxglove, although stunning and attractive to bees, they are toxic. Please contact Sylvia for any help or advice in this area.

Pot Swap Area

Located under the Communal Table will be plant pots stored in a large container, these will be available for all tenants to help themselves, plus add to with any unwanted pots that may have accumulated over the years. This will be for a trial period of one month. Please ensure the areas are kept tidy & free of rubbish

Flowering Herbs

All herbs, if allowed to bloom, confuse & deter the pests with their strong fragrances, they also attract numerous bees and beneficial insects onto the plot, especially Comfrey, which blooms repeatedly all summer and drives the bees crazy. Once they have finished, the plants can be cut right down to ground level & the leaves are a great addition to the compost heap. This will then encourage the plants to grow & flower again, and so it goes on. Please contact Sylvia for any help or advice in this area.

Face Book

MAA now has a presence on Face Book, thanks to Juliette, who has toiled for many hours setting up, monitoring & updating this regularly, access is via: www.facebook.com/marlowallotmentassociation please let us have any photos, notices & feed-back.

Allotments Competitions

MAA is hopeful that these will be resumed next year, if not this year, and will be liaising with the Council in this matter once the present Covid rulings relax.

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 for a password & instructions.

Discount

Hunts in Station Road continue to give discount on gardening items to Association Members.

They have a large & varied selection of seeds, garden tools and other supplies such as slug pellets etc.

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

Supply has ceased for Dried Chicken Manure Pellets, we will notify all tenants once they resume. Rabbit manure, which is a valuable addition to the compost heap, is delivered in large black bags & is free, however, a small donation to the Association would be appreciated. Please contact Sylvia – 07939 097771.

Woodchips

Woodchips are now be available in Foxes Piece Site, at the entrance in Dedmere Road (near the rear School entrance), plus there are four woodchip bays in the Hanging Hill site, these woodchips are available free of charge for all tenants.

When collecting the woodchips, please ensure these areas are left as tidy and clear as possible to enable others to access the pathways.

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.

Neglected Plots

Any tenant that has personal problems or health issues which prevent them from attending site should notify Marlow Town Council.

If anyone is having issues or problems and would like to discuss this with a Committee Member, see the contact details which are supplied below.

Newsletters by e-mail

More than 200 tenants now have their Newsletters delivered electronically, which still leaves around 30 delivered by hand.

A big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers who do this.

If any tenant would like to receive the newsletter via email, plus periodic news updates regarding allotment matters, please forward your email address to: marlowallotmentassociation@gmail.com

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.

They attend periodic meetings each year to discuss on-going issues and ideas for projects and events, currently these are via Zoom, the minutes are posted on our website and notice boards.

There are also meetings held with Marlow Town Council throughout the year to cover various Allotment matters or issues & to propose suggestions & ideas.

If any Association Member would like to join the Committee and be part of the Team, or would like to attend a Committee Meeting to discover what is involved, please contact Sylvia Miller.

Chair – Juliette Chanoir (plot 127HH)
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Secretary – Sylvia Miller (plot 87HH) 3, The Chase
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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.

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