



Newsletter June 2022

Shed at the Orchard

MAA is proud to announce a new shed which has been constructed with modest financial outlay at the Orchard by John Holland, from a mix of: purchased & donated re-claimed wood, shed stain & screws, tenants donations, include: 4x windows & frames, 2 pairs of French doors, two rolls of roofing felt and other materials e.g.: canopy, fixing screws/bolts with grateful thanks from MAA.

This has ample size to seat approx. 10 persons, and proved so at the last Committee meeting which was held there in May.



The collection of surplus tools & equipment will be stored there, which can now be catalogued & the details made available for Members. There are also plans to organise a 'Seed Swap' in the Spring. The challenge has been in finding a name for such an awesome construction!!

Some suggestions are: Hangman's Gibbet, MAA Clubhouse, The Shed, MAA Orchard Hangout, The Hermitage, and so on.....

Please would Members let us have other possible suggestions, by 20th July either via Facebook, email, in person or via phone/text to a Committee Member, once these are collated a list of suggested names will be circulated to enable Members to vote on the favourite.

Bonfires

The Committee will be attending a meeting with MTC to discuss various matters concerning both sites, most importantly the issue of bonfires. Emphasising on the point that it is part of the natural process of burning dried branches etc to create ash, which can then be added to the soil and continues the natural cycle.

Review of Trees & large shrubs

The trees and large shrubs on both sites will be reviewed on a regular basis by MTC with Denise Bagge (Committee Member) to ensure that dangerous or overhanging areas are dealt with. In May 2022 a further round of work was identified and will take place in the coming months. If any member has concerns regarding trees or bushes near their plot for consideration in the Autumn review, please contact Denise Bagge.

Allotment Pollinators

The Council's latest Allotment Regulations clearly state that the **keeping of bees is not allowed**. This refers to honey bees that are kept in hives and can have a nasty sting for those that may go too close.

However, there are lots of other bees that do not sting and do an excellent job of pollinating our vegetables, fruit bushes and trees. These are wild bumble bees & solitary bees, including the Red Mason Bee, and do not require hives. Maren Talbot, our Treasurer, has been a Mason Bee Guardian for a number of years & explains how it works in a splendid colourful & detailed article, which has recently been posted onto our website: marlowallotmentassociation@gmail.com

Website

The MAA Website has now been live for some time, and is updated periodically with news and information, thanks to Juliette for all her time spent on this.

Please send her any photos or stories, from your allotment that you would like to share.

Donated Tools

MAA has received donations of a variety of surplus tools, these are offered to all members in return for a small donation to the Association.

Please contact Sylvia.

Face Book

MAA has a presence on Face Book, thanks to Juliette who manages & updates this, please let us have any items of interest, allotment tales or advice via:

www.facebook.com/marlowallotmentassociation

Communal Tables & Pot Swap Areas

There is now a Communal Table in Hanging Hill at the entrance at Prospect Road & in Foxes Piece at the entrance by the flats. Tenants can leave surplus seedlings and crop to share with others, there are also Pots Swap areas on both sites to enable tenants to help themselves, and leave any unwanted pots that others can benefit from.

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 the sites should a threat arise.

Those that have not yet joined, please renew your membership as soon as possible, thereby proving that you support your Allotment Site.

Seed Scheme

Catalogues and order forms for The National Society Seeds Scheme are available online & hard copies (if required) to 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 receives a discount from Kings against every order submitted.

For a catalogue, please contact a Committee Member as listed. Maren Talbot is the Seed Secretary & Treasurer; all orders should be sent to her with the payment (cash or bank transfer) in the envelope provided. Alternatively, there is now the option to place orders online. Please contact Maren for a password & instructions.

BBQ planned 3rd July - 3pm until dusk

There is a BBQ planned at the Orchard, Hanging Hill all tenants & guests are welcome - bring your own food & drink. Tables & seating are available for all to use, plus, a Communal Table will be there for all to add to & share. Go to the main gate in Prospect Road, where someone will be on the gate, travel up the main track to the top car park, then follow the pathway uphill which will lead to the Orchard at the highest point of the site. Please notify Sylvia beforehand if you plan to come along for the attendance record

Newsletters by e-mail

The majority of tenants now have their Newsletters delivered electronically, which still leaves around 25 delivered by hand. A big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers who do this.

No More Cheques Please

Unfortunately, the bank now charges MAA for each cheque paid into or out of the account, therefore, if possible, please make payments for membership, donations or seed orders either by bank transfer or cash to a Committee Member.

Manure

If any members would like to collect horse manure from a local source, please contact Sylvia.

Woodchips

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

There are plans in place for a second Woodchip Bay to be constructed at Foxes Piece by the entrance at the flats, a big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers that will be undertaking this project by sourcing the material, planning and organising the construction.

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

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, 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 & 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)
email: juliette.chanoir@gmail.com

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

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

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

Member – Pete Cooper (plot 23HH). 2, Stanley Cl
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