



Newsletter April 2023

Competition

This year there will be an Allotment Competition, in which all tenants can participate. Plots should be in a tidy condition with minimal weeds, cultivating a variety of healthy crop. The Judge will view all plots on both sites in the middle of June, weather permitting, and will view the finalists at the end of August.

There will not be an award for Master Gardener, the winners will be awarded First Prize, Second Prize & Third Prize plus Best Beginner for each site, to be presented at the AGM in November. This is supported and financed by Marlow Town Council.

The Council also plan to run a competition for the most Unique Feature on a plot for both sites. This will be Judged by the new Mayor during August or September and the winners will be awarded the prizes at the AGM.

Seedling & Plant Stand at Foxes Piece

There will be a Seedling & Plant stand held on Saturday May 27th from 2pm until 4pm, a selection of small plants and seedlings will be available, for a small donation. If any tenant has a surplus that they would like to donate, please contact a Committee Member.

Woodchips

There is now a second Woodchip Bay in the Foxes Piece Site, at the entrance by the flats, which along with the existing four woodchip bays in Hanging Hill site, means that there are woodchips available for all tenants to use on their allotment plot. With thanks from MAA to the volunteers that have made this possible.

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

Donated Tools

MAA has received new donations of a variety of surplus tools, these are offered to all members in return for a small donation. Any additional tools or equipment to be donated would be very welcome. These are invaluable to newcomers & novices. Please contact Sylvia.

Website

The MAA Website has now been live for some time, which is updated periodically with news and information, thanks to Juliette for all her time spent on this. Please send us photos or stories, from the Allotment to share.

Badgers at HH

The Committee feel it important that tenants are aware That, as the badgers are a protected species, they cannot be relocated. There is a small variety of ways for securing your allotment plot to prevent their access with sprays, barriers and deterrents.

These can be researched on the internet, alternatively please contact Sylvia for further details.

Bonfires

At the specific request from MAA, the Council have agreed that bonfires will be allowed, in incinerators only, from 1st January 2024 to 15th February 2024.

Please ensure only dry wood & plant matter is burnt and there is no excessive smoke, as this would create a serious issue for some tenants & local residents who suffer from breathing problems.

Communal Tables

There are Communal Tables in Hanging Hill at the entrance in Prospect Road & in Foxes Piece at the entrance by the flats. Tenants can leave surplus seedlings & 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 & trays that others can benefit from.

Next meeting with MTC

The Committee hope to attend an Allotment Working Party Meeting with the Council in August, to cover Allotment matters & issues.

If any tenant has any matter of concern that they would like MAA to discuss with the Council, please contact a Committee Member before August.

Winter Work Party

Work has been completed at FP to construct a second woodchip bay by the gate at the flats and at HH to prune the trees in the Orchard. Thank you to the hard work by our Volunteers.

Protecting Your Allotment Plot

The Association will be celebrating 40 years since it was originally formed, to successfully protect the Allotment Sites, at the time from a serious threat from Property Developers.

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

Therefore, it is **VITAL** that we are supported by the majority of tenants, otherwise MAA does not have a voice to represent the sites, should another threat arise. Those that have not yet joined, please arrange your membership on the attached renewal form as soon as possible. Thank you

QUEEN WASPS

Now is the time of year that the Queen Wasps stir from their winter hibernation and begin constructing their nests. They will be working on the nests over the next month or two & will be laying their eggs soon, which will hatch in July. Therefore, we should all be vigilant and watch out for wasp activity now, before the swarms emerge. If anyone notices a wasp flying about in an area check for signs of their white papery nests. If the nest is destroyed now the queen will be able to rebuild her nest in another location, hopefully in a remote area. If any tenant needs help or advice over this please contact Sylvia.

Stay Safe on the Allotment!!

Please check with your Doctor, to discover if you are due a booster Tetanus Inoculation, if required, arrange to have this as soon as possible.

Red Kites

Whilst we all welcome the return of the Red Kites to this area of England, they can be a nuisance, they are no longer shy and wary of humans. Keep an eye out when having a snack, as they may try to swoop down for your food. It has been reported that they have taken a whole roast chicken from a tray, whilst being carried outdoors to be placed on a garden table for lunch.

Newsletters by e-mail

The majority of tenants now have their Newsletters delivered electronically, which still leaves around 20 delivered by hand. A big THANK YOU to the volunteers who do this.

Seed Scheme

Catalogues & order forms for the National Society Seeds Scheme 2023 are now available, plus Members can also download the digital catalogue via <https://nsg.kingsseeds.com/nsg-catalogue>. Seeds, onions, garlic, potatoes, plants, fruit bushes & trees, plus sundries & tools are all competitive in price & of high quality, supplied by the Kings Seeds Company. Orders may be placed online at <http://nsg.kingsseeds.com>.

Please contact Maren Talbot, our Treasurer & Seed Secretary, for registration and instructions. For those without internet access orders can still be placed using the paper order form supplied with the catalogue, to obtain one please contact a Committee Member. These orders should be sent to Maren with the cash payment in the envelope provided or payment can be made by transfer into the MAA bank account, details are on the form.

Please note MAA receives an annual payment for Commission from Kings, in respect of every order submitted. This is a valuable addition to our Fighting Fund, should we need this again.

Review of trees & large shrubs

The trees and large shrubs on both sites are reviewed on a regular basis, Denise, who has been a Committee Member for many years, is overseeing this & liaising with MTC. Priority will be given to any trees or large shrubs considered to be dangerous. If any tenant has concerns over this, please contact Denise.

Face Book

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

No More Cheques Please

Unfortunately, the bank now charges MAA for cheques paid into or out of the account, therefore, please make payments to MAA by bank transfer or in cash to a Committee Member.

Your 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 allotment issues along with ideas for projects & events, the minutes are posted on our website & 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 attend a Committee Meeting to discover what is involved, please contact Sylvia Miller.

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