



Newsletter January 2024

History of MAA

At the AGM in November, we were fortunate to have a splendid report from Peter England on the history of the Association, which is included in the attached report of the AGM minutes. As most members & tenants are aware, Peter was part of the original Committee when the Association was set up over 40 years ago, in order to protect the Allotments Sites from a very real threat from Contractors. His report told of the threat to the Allotments Sites in 1982 and how the Association succeeded, ensuring our right to keep these allotments. Less than 20 years later, another threat loomed in 1999/2000, which again was opposed by MAA and the planning application was subsequently withdrawn.

AGM Minutes

Attached to this email are the AGM minutes, which are also available on our website. Please advise Sylvia of any amendments, corrections or comments.

Woodchips

There has been a slight delay with the installation of the second Woodchip Bay in the Foxes Piece Site, at the entrance by the flats, which should now be imminent, as the weather appears to be clearing. Thank you to the volunteers who are organising and constructing of this.

The woodchips, delivered to bays on both sites, are 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. Please note that only one local tree surgeon is authorised to access the sites to deliver these. Any tenant with queries or questions over this, please contact Sylvia.

Donated Tools

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

Benches by main gates

This suggestion has been aborted, due to lack of support from tenants and members.

Seedling & Small Plant Stand at Foxes Piece

This was a huge success last year, when small plants & seedlings donated by other tenants were available to tenants, for a small donation to the Association.

MAA have plans to repeat this event in May 2024, full details will be in the next Newsletter.

Memberships

Please note that our Annual Membership Renewal runs from 1st November to 31st October the following year, hence the reason that we have the Annual General Meeting each November. For those that have not already done so, Membership can be renewed as detailed on the attached renewal form – members renewing do not need to complete the form, just follow the instructions as described.

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 (her contact details are on page 2 of this newsletter) or the Council.

Incinerators

As a result of an email circulated to all tenants, there has been an amazing number of positive responses supporting to the suggestion that MAA organises incinerators to be available for all tenants to use during the periods that bonfires are allowed on site.

Any Tenant that would like to use this facility should contact Sylvia.

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.

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.

Stay Safe on the Allotment!!

Tenants should check with their Doctor, to find out if they are overdue a booster Tetanus Inoculation, if so, arrange to have this as soon as possible.

Spring is on the Way

Now the evenings are drawing out is the time to get onto the plot and prepare for Spring, clearing any weeds & debris, and start work on the planting plan for the coming year.

Winter Work Party

Thank you for all the volunteers who offered their help with this, unfortunately, there has been a delay as Sylvia has a minor health problem, this will be organised for work to start asap.

Next meeting with MTC

The Committee hope to attend an Allotment Working Party Meeting with the Council in Spring, 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.

Protecting Your Allotment Plot

The Association celebrated 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 sufficient 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

Seed Scheme

Catalogues & order forms for the National Society Seeds Scheme 2024 are available, plus Members can also download the digital catalogue via <https://nsalg.kingsseeds.com/nsalg-catalogue>.

Seeds, onions, garlic, potatoes, plants, fruit bushes & trees, sundries & tools are competitively priced & of high quality, supplied by the Kings Seeds Company. Orders can be placed via the NSALG link online at <http://nsalg.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 paid 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, ensuring that we are prepared, should we need this again.

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.

Website

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

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 tenants to help themselves, and leave any unwanted pots & trays that others can benefit from

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.

Chair – Huw Stephenson (plot 28 FP)
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