



Newsletter April 2024

Wildlife Habitats

At the Foxes Piece Allotments Site MAA have organised small areas which are dedicated to attract wildlife to the site. We have also arranged for nesting boxes to be installed in various locations to accommodate birds, hedgehogs & bats, and plan to accommodate additional slow worms on the site to add to the present slow worm population, increasing the benefit that they can bring to the site.

We also plan to plant various flowers and herbs which will attract bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. This has been made possible with thanks to the volunteers who have worked hard preparing this.

If any tenants would like to help, please do not hesitate Sylvia, all help no matter how small is appreciated.

Competition

There will be another Allotment Competition organised by MAA and supported by MTC who generously fund this. The Judges will visit the site in June and again in August/September depending on weather conditions. There will be an award on each site for Best Beginner plus First, Second and Third places. At present there has been minimal interest for a youth/child award, if anyone would like to discuss this further, please contact Sylvia. The prizes will be awarded at the AGM again.

Fires on Site

At the specific request from MAA, the Council have agreed that fires will be allowed, but in incinerators only, from 1st November to 15th December 2024. Please ensure only dry wood & plant matter is burnt and there is no excessive smoke.

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.

Spring is on the Way

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

Incinerators

As most tenants should be aware, MTC have ruled that incinerators must be used for fires on site. Therefore, MAA has organised Communal incinerators to be available for all tenants to use in turn, during the periods that bonfires are allowed on site. Please contact Sylvia for more information.

Seedling & Small Plant Stand at Foxes Piece

MAA have plans to run a stand on Saturday 4th May 2024, from 11.00 am until 12.30pm at the Dedmere Rise entrance to Foxes Piece Allotments Site. This is located behind the Doctors Surgery, follow the footpath to Dedmere Rise. A selection of vegetable, flower, herb seedlings and small plants will be available in exchange for a small donation to the Association, payment by cash is preferred as we do not accept cheques or card. This will enable those behind with their Spring sowing to benefit from the selection available. Last year we held this event stand which was a huge success, members from both sites attended, the small plants & seedlings that were donated by other tenants were made available to others for a small donation to the Association.

Garden Companions

Some may have heard of plants & flowers that attract beneficial insects – herbs will tick both of those boxes.

Most herb plants tend to flower several times each year, this will drive all the bees and insects wild with excitement from the strong fragrances.

Then we have the English Marigold and Nasturtium, the perfect companions for the allotment and each year will pop up all over the garden with bursts of fabulous colour, as well as attracting beneficial insects.

So, get planting now!!

Memberships

Please note that our Annual Membership Renewal runs from 1st November to 31st October the following year, which is why 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, the fee is £5.00 per member– those that are renewing do not need to complete the form, just follow the instructions as described.

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.

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 spending her valuable time on this.

Please send us photos or stories, from the Allotment to share.

Tree Pruning

Our local tree surgeon Robin, of New Leaf Tree Surgeons, visited both sites recently demonstrating and advising the pruning and trimming of fruit trees.

This was beneficial to those that attended and we all appreciated Robn taking the time to do this out of his busy work schedule for us. He plans to repeat this for us later in the year, there will be notices and emails nearer the time inviting any tenant to attend.

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.

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, allium bulbs, 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.

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.

Woodchips

There plans are imminent for the installation of the second Woodchip Bay in the Foxes Piece Site, at the entrance by the flats. Thank you to the volunteers who are organising and constructing this.

The woodchips, delivered to bays on both sites, are available for all tenants to use on their allotment plot. Please note that only one local tree surgeon is authorised to access the sites to deliver these.

Attract Wildlife to Your Plot

We are currently preparing some information to assist tenants with various ways to attract beneficial insects and small animals to their plot, including solitary and bumble bees. As advised by Wild Marlow and other organisations. Which will soon be available on our website.

As good start is having a small pond attracting bees, birds, hedgehogs and of course frogs, try to ensure there are some large rocks or logs so that they can crawl out of the water.

Stay Safe on the Allotment!!

Tenants should check with their Doctor regarding a booster Tetanus Inoculation, if required this should be arranged as soon as possible.

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.

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