



Newsletter July 2025

Deer and Badger Damage at HH

Over recent years there has been a gradual increase in the presence of deer, muntjak and badgers at Hanging Hill, this year here it has been dramatic, there is a huge amount of evidence left as they have been eating and destroying crop over the whole site.

It appears that all plots have suffered loss of crop and damage from these culprits, far worse than ever before.

The Council have inspected the Deer Barrier which was funded by the Council, organised and installed by Bill Masser and his volunteers, there are numerous areas that deer are jumping the fence line, plus damage caused by badgers & Muntjak that have broken their way in via the lower sections. Currently Marlow Town Council are looking into options to remedy this huge problem for their tenants as soon as possible.



Dahlia Talk Friday 15th August

Again, our Dahlia expert at Foxes Piece, Richard Bailey, has offered to carry out another talk about cultivation and care for these beautiful flowers. This year he will also give advice and instruction regarding, what he has found to be, the best way to create perfect compost. All tenants are welcome to attend this, it will be held on his plot numbered 98 at FP, please bring your own refreshments and seats, there will be someone manning the entrance by the flats for HH tenants to access the site & attend this splendid and informative talk which will start at 6.30pm for about an hour or so.

New Communal Area at FP

The Council have agreed that MAA can organise a Communal Area at Foxes Piece, we plan to install seating and perhaps a couple of benches & a table for all tenants to use. However, we need volunteers from the site to help us to maintain the area, please contact Sylvia, thank you.

Stay Safe on the Allotment!!

Tenants should check their Tetanus Inoculation, if required a booster should be arranged asap.

N.S.A.L.G.

The Association has subscribed to the National Society for Allotment and Leisure Gardeners for over 40 years, ensuring that every MAA member is also a member of this large National Organisation, in the belief that our continued membership will ensure their support, should the need arise to defend our allotments sites.

Unfortunately, certain matters of concern have arisen recently, and we need to cover this in detail at the next AGM with all of our members that can attend.

The next AGM is booked for 6th November 2025, please would those that wish to give us their input on this vital issue try to attend the meeting that evening.

Plant Stand

This year plant and tool stands were held at both sites raising substantial funds for the Association. It was a great team effort with volunteers help, a big thank you for the donated plants. It was very enjoyable for the volunteers to see so many tenants with plants and tools that they needed or simply wanted to try out. Next year, we plan to hold only one event (based at Hanging Hill); around the first week in June, this time with more of the plants that were in demand such as peppers, courgettes and cucumbers.

Beware of Ticks on Site at HH

As most of us are aware, all wild animals carry ticks which attach to grass and foliage, then re-attach to any new host that passes by. Those that frequently walk in the woods are aware of this hazard.

Now we have such a huge problem with wild animals roaming on the plots at Hanging Hill, it is vital after each visit to your plot, that tenants check thoroughly for signs of ticks, cleansing themselves & washing all clothing, if there are any ticks remove very carefully to prevent infection, there are specific tools available, please contact a pharmacy for more details.

Manure Deliveries

Manure has been delivered to Hanging Hill, which is stored in a bay at the top of the hill, by the Walnut Tree. This is available for all tenants to use on their allotment plots & compost bins. Unfortunately, manure deliveries have ceased at Foxes Piece due to complaints. MAA plans to request, at the next AWP meeting with the Council, that these are resumed for a period during the winter months.

Donated Tools

MAA has received new donations of a variety of tools, these are offered to members in return for a small donation. These are invaluable to newcomers & novices. Please contact John Stilliard – 01628 483909.

Review of trees & large shrubs

The trees and large shrubs on both sites are reviewed on a regular basis, Denise Bagge, 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 on either site has any matter of concern to put forward, please contact Denise (our longest standing Committee Member) or the Council.

Seed Scheme

Catalogues & order forms for the National Society Seeds Scheme 2025 are available for Association Members, or the digital catalogue can be accessed via <https://nsalg.kingsseeds.com/nsalg-catalogue>. Seeds, onions, garlic, potatoes, plants, fruit bushes & trees, sundries & tools are all of high quality, supplied by the Kings Seeds Company with reduced prices for members. 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.

Woodchips

There are two woodchip bays at Foxes Piece and four at Hanging Hill, thanks to the volunteers who are organised and constructed of these.

The woodchips delivered to these bays are for all tenants to use on their allotment plot, if they wish. Please note that only Newleaf Tree Surgeons are authorised to access both sites to deliver these. No tradesmen are allowed access to either site unless with specific authority from the Council.

Next AWP meeting with MTC

The Committee have been invited to attend an Allotment Working Party Meeting with the Council in September, this enables us to cover Allotment matters, problems & issues. Including a request for manure deliveries at FP during the winter, the wild life problem at HH, lifting the ban on fires on both sites for a month, plus other matters of concern. If any tenant has a problem or issue that they would like MAA to put forward for discussion with the Council, please contact a Committee Member.

Protecting Your Allotment Plot

It has been over 40 years since MAA was originally formed, to protect & support both of the Allotment Sites, at the time we successfully prevented a very serious threat from local Property Developers, and again about 10 years later. We remain vigilant and continue to be prepared to take any steps necessary to defend the sites from any future threats.

Therefore, it is VITAL that we are supported by the majority of tenants from both sites, otherwise MAA does not have a sufficient voice to represent the Allotments Sites, should another threat arise.

Those that have not yet joined, please arrange your membership as soon as possible. Thank you.

Your Committee

Committee Members can have several roles, perhaps the most important one is keeping an eye open for matters of concern or possible threats for 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 perhaps attend a Committee Meeting and discover what is involved, please contact Sylvia Miller.

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