



SEPTMBER 2017

View from the chair

The British weather has certainly given us all a few challenges again this summer. Don't forget to keep nurturing those plants and vegetables ready for entry into the annual show on Saturday 9th September. A brochure and show entry form is available in the shop. It looks to be a great show with something for everyone, so bring the family along.

An allotment will always require blood sweat and tears to get the best out of it. Most of the tears have been from the plot inspection team with the disappointing number of letters that have had to be sent out this year. Early contact from tenants would help reduce this. The plot inspection team are looking to introduce a more robust policy so look out for updates. It is up to all tenants to ensure the gates are kept locked out of shop opening times as we have had reports of a couple of vehicles driving around the site up to no good.

Looking forward to the AGM in November, there will be an opportunity as there is every year for tenants to join the committee and we are always looking for new ideas and skills to help run the site and keep it secure for future generations. Have a chat with your neighbours and other tenants then put your name forward if you think you can help.

Thanks

Tony
(MRALGA Chair)

<p>Letters Sent</p> <p>We are constantly working to improve the site and the number of letters sent:</p> <p><u>PLOT INSPECTION LETTERS</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>1st stage plot inspections</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd stage plot inspections</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd stage notices to quit</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </table> <p>More letters are due to be sent soon.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LETTERS</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Breach of Tenancy rules</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eviction notices</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thank you letters.</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table>	1 st stage plot inspections	42	2 nd stage plot inspections	40	3 rd stage notices to quit	9	Breach of Tenancy rules	9	Eviction notices	1	Thank you letters.	11	<p>Rodent Report</p> <p>Rodent Activity Indicator:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Increasing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Decreasing</p> <p>This increase is normal for the time of year but please be vigilant and try to keep your plots free of any food that attracts rodents.</p>
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Martin Fahey

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Martin Fahey (plot 600). Many memories of Martin have been shared by tenants, including that he would always help if he saw you in need and would always wave and check you were OK. When a petition was presented to Bedford Borough Council to stop them closing down the site, Martin was there with his placard saying "Save our Allotments" – the consequences of his action will help the site to live on for future generations.

Welcome to the following new tenants:

Sally Stewart	Plot 161.B
Ray Cluter	Plot 170.1
Rose Claassens	Plot 171.1
Alan Harrison	Plot 316
Mr Miah	Plot 363
Saaj Rahman	Plot 391

We now have a waiting list for plots but there are currently 2 micro plots vacant.

Annual Show Day Saturday 9th September

It's full steam ahead for the Annual Show on Saturday 9th September. The Events Team have put together a really fun day for all your family and friends. There is an even better chance of winning a £5 shop voucher or even a trophy this year as there are more fruit and vegetable classes to enter as well as a photography section and two Best Shed classes. There will be plenty to eat and drink, including a barbecue, ploughman's lunches, afternoon tea, cakes, and fun for all the family including pony rides and games with great prizes.

If you would like to help on the day, we'd be delighted. Just contact any of the committee or the Events Team or call the MRALGA mobile number 07564 649137.

General News

The recent **Sue Ryder coffee morning** raised £137.

We had a very successful '**tidy up day**' and continue to have support from the Community PayBack team on Saturdays and fortnightly Thursdays.

PLEASE remember that you must ask for the **plot-owner's permission** before going onto their plot uninvited. There have been a number of incidents recently where fruit and vegetables have 'gone missing' without the owner's consent. It is an offence to take anything from a plot without asking and, following a warning, you will receive an eviction notice.

A gentle reminder for those who intend to give up their plot – please remember to remove all rubbish and personal possessions by 30th September. The tenancy rules state:

In the event of the termination of the tenancy the Tenant shall return to the Association any property (keys, etc.) made available to him during the Tenancy and shall leave the plot in a clean and tidy condition. If in the opinion of the Association the plot has not been left in a satisfactory condition, any work carried out by the Association to return the plot to a satisfactory condition shall be charged to the Tenant (section 4 Allotments Act 1950).

Up-coming Events

Day trip to National Arboretum in Leicestershire on Saturday 21st October. Tickets including coach fare £18.

Tickets for all events are available at the site shop.

If you would like to join the events subcommittee see Dave Osborn or email events@mralga.org

Security

Please remember to **lock the main gates** to the site whenever you leave, apart from when the shop is open. There have been several 'unwelcome' visitors recently as the gates have been left unlocked at various times of the day.

Thanks to vigilance by ploholders and cooperation with the Police, most property from the recent thefts has now been returned to owners.

Following another recent incident, scenes of crime officers attended the site and were able to identify fingerprints on items.

Tea Room Closures

The tea room is usually open on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 – 12 but you may have noticed that it's been closed on some occasions. This is sadly due to a lack of volunteers willing to 'put the kettle on'. We really do need a core of volunteers to help in the tea room – it's just a matter of making cups of tea and coffee. There's no washing up to do as there's now a fully functioning dishwasher. If you could occasionally spare an hour or two, please call into the tea room and speak to Maria or just sign your name on the rota sheet.

Bonfires

Please remember that bonfires can only be lit on the first full weekend of the month.

Speed Limit

There have been a number of 'near misses' recently, so please keep to the speed limit of 5mph throughout the site.

Shop News

For those looking to get ahead for the 2018 season we now have overwintering onions, shallots, garlic, peas and beans in stock. You will also be able to pick up your Kings Seed catalogue and 2018 Potato pre-order form at the annual show and in the shop afterwards.

The Shop is open Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10-12 noon.

Tips for the Month

Continue sowing vegetables for overwintering, to mature next spring, including: turnip, spinach, winter lettuce, carrots.

Sow green manures to act as a soil improver and to cover bare areas. When dug in, they conserve nutrients and improve soil texture.

Enjoy your plot!

MRALGA Trustees