



Cwmcarn Allotment Association Cymdeithas Rhandiroedd Cwmcarn

Newsletter Issue 4

Welcome to the new Cwmcarn Allotment Association newsletter. This quarterly publication will give you all the news and views from your allotment site.

If you have any pictures or articles, you would like to see on the next newsletter please contact *Voirrey* or *Phil*.

Lloyds Banking Group Community Fund

We're delighted to announce that we have received a £300 grant from the 'Lloyds Banking Group Community Fund'. We were of course disappointed to fall short of the votes needed to win the top grant of £3000, having lost out to Save Cwmcarn High School and Sparkle Appeal. Both very worthwhile causes, I'm sure you'll agree.

It has been proposed that the money be used to purchase a 'Rotivator' for the use of allotment tenants. This will be particularly useful to new starters, those with physical impairments which makes digging their plot difficult and those of us who are short on time. The details on how and when the 'Rotivator' will be available are yet to be agreed. Please let us know if you are interested in using it on your plot.

The Lloyds Banking Group Community Fund is open to us to enter again this year and the application is currently being prepared for submission. We'll

let you know when the voting opens. Please encourage your friends and family to vote for us, either online or over the phone, so that we can be in the running for the big grant.

We have also submitted an application to Caerphilly Council for further funding of £5000.

New starters

The committee are delighted to welcome new plot holders. I'm sure you'll all make them feel very welcome and give them the benefit of your many years of experience.

Welcome aboard Steve, Kim and Fiona, Alice, Judith and Liz. Happy gardening!

Waiting list

As so many plots have been allocated recently, we are keen to add new names to the waiting list. If you know someone who wants to scratch their 'Allotmenting Itch', let us know and we'll add their names to the waiting list. The average waiting times is approximately 6-12 months.

Islwyn Allotment Federation

There has been a long running dispute between the Caerphilly Council and the Islwyn Allotment Federation (IAF). This has culminated in the Council issuing a 'Devolved Management Agreement', containing a revision to the terms the IAF had followed since 1992.

The IAF were opposed to these and spent many months in discussion with the council, in attempts to negotiate the terms of the new agreement. As both parties were unable to reach a satisfactory resolution, the IAF called an EGM last month, which it announced sadly that they had decided to dissolve the Federation. The funds within the IAF bank accounts have been split between all the Allotment Associations within their jurisdiction. This has resulted in a cheque for £1,500 being given to our Association. It was proposed that these funds be put towards the replacement of the garage next to the Association shed.

Caerphilly Council has announced that they plan to establish a new allotment federation called the 'Caerphilly East Allotment Federation' and will have representation from across the district. Whilst we await further information on the new federation, we would like to thank the IAF for their support over the years and wish it's committee all the best for the future. We look forward to working closely with the new federation over the coming years.

In the meantime, we have been continuing our efforts to secure the lease for the land the allotments sits on, in order to gain funding for the large projects we wish to undertake on the site, such as the replacement of the fencing. Our investigations are still ongoing. We have confirmed that the Council has the land on a long lease from a third party. This third party we have established is not the Llanover Estate, as we had initially presumed. We'll keep you posted as we find out more.

Our website

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new website. It's got a great selection of photos, site specific and general allotment information, helpful links and lots more. It's been created by Walkabout Freelance Design and has all been completed free of charge, which is very much appreciated.

We'd welcome your feedback and contributions. Follow the links when you visit www.cwmcarn-allotments.co.uk. We are also looking for a Website sponsor, so if you know of any organisation or business in the area who could benefit from a banner advert, whilst offering their support. Please ask them to contact us.

Association update

We have made some updates to the 'Starter Induction Pack' which is issued to everyone when they first take on

their plot. We've received really positive feedback on the content of the packs and have added further information regarding the new website and also about the availability of water. We'd welcome all your thoughts on the packs, not just if you're a new starter, so if you'd like to see a copy, please let us know.

Please remember that now the season is well underway all tenants should be aware that their plot needs to 60% cultivated. Hopefully we'll all be able to make the best of some fine weather shortly and get the site looking spic and span in time for summer.

There is evidence that allotment waste is once again being deposited into the brook. Whether accidental or not, it is all our responsibilities to ensure that the brook remains free of allotment waste and debris. Always ensure that any weeds etc are disposed of responsibly. If you need assistance getting rid of large scale items, please let us know.

If you are considering having a bonfire on your plot, please make sure that you are lighting up within the times laid out within the tenancy agreement. All fires should not be lit on weekends or bank holidays. They should only be lit between 7pm and 9pm and be extinguished by 10pm.

All copies of the signed Rules and Constitution and the Tenancy Agreement should now have been signed and returned. If you have not already done this, please do so as soon as possible. If you have mislaid the copy

you were sent, and you require another copy, please let us know and we'll be happy to send another out to you.

There have been frequent issues of children accessing the allotments. Climbing on the fences and over gates is not only dangerous for them but also damages crops and the fences, which as previously mentioned we are struggling to get funds to replace. (This is not to mention the damage done by footballs being kicked over the fence!) Some plot holders have suffered from extreme damage, so could you please make the committee aware if you see children on the plot or find evidence of your plot being trampled on.

Potato Day and the shop

The now annual Potato Day was once again a huge success. It was great to see so many people after the Winter break. We had a steady stream of customers both allotment holders and general gardeners, who were glad of a hot cup of tea to warm up. We hope it's kicked the season off to great start for you as well as us.

The shop has been really busy in the first few weeks since it reopened for the 2014 season. There are still shallots, onions and potatoes for sale as well as the usual compost, potato fertilisers etc. We also have a supply of black plastic sheeting for allotment covering.

We will be getting a handrail added to make the path to the shop a little safer and easier to reach.

Shop price list

Shallots £1/lb

Golden Gourmet

Onions £1/lb

Stuttgart Giant

Potatoes 50p/lb

Charlotte, Romano

Maris Bard

Peas £1/lb

Kelvedon Wonder

Runner Beans £1/lb

Enorma

Compost £3.50 or 3 for £10

Garden Lime £4 a bag

Chicken Manure £5.80 a bag

Growmore 46p/lb

Blood, Fish & Bone 46p/lb

Potato Fertiliser 46p/lb

Slug Pellets £1.10/lb

Bean Poles 20p each

Black Plastic 75p metre(2 mt wide)

Please bring a carrier bag when visiting the shop.

This price list is correct at the time of going to press.

Contact Us:

Contact info removed for online version, please contact via our website.

Management of fences/ boundaries, etc

It is generally the responsibility of the plot holder to maintain the shed and boundaries of their plot; this applies to the fence on the road and the brook. Should however, more extensive maintenance work be required, the Association will then work with the CCBC and the Federation to fund it.

An ongoing project has been the improvement of the fencing along Nantcarn Road, the association are currently exploring different options in terms of replacement and funding. CCBC are responsible for cutting the verges between the wire fence and the kerb, and applying weed killer on regular basis.

Up and coming

We're looking to add new social events and get together to our calendar year, and are always looking for extra volunteers to help with the organisation. Please contact us if you would like to be involved.

If you would like to contribute something to the next issue of the newsletter, be it a news article, gardening advice, recipes or just something you'd like to share, please email or speak to *Voirrey*.

Think green! If you would rather receive future newsletters via email, please email Voirrey with your request.



Find us on
Facebook

Visit our website
www.cwmcarn-allotments.co.uk