



Cwmcarn Allotment Association *Cymdeithas Rhandiroedd Cwmcarn*

Newsletter Issue 1 - Spring 2012

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*.

New Shed on the Horizon

The big news of the quarter is that following a successful *National Lottery 'Awards for All'* application, the association have been awarded funding to replace our communal shed and improve the access.

The new shed will give a focal point for the shop, meetings and a centre for future events - watch this space! All being well, work will begin in the autumn. This is a great achievement for the association as the current shed is badly in need of repair.

Thanks go to *Sandra Davies* at the *Gwent Association for Voluntary Organisations* for all her help with the application.

The fencing is the next big project on the committee's radar and work is underway to secure funding for this.

If you have any ideas for fundraising initiatives to help us raise cash, then the committee would be all ears!

Water Schedule

Now the summer weather is (hopefully) drawing near, we're ready to meet the site's water needs. A committee member will turn on the water supply for use during the daytime on Saturdays and Sundays. During any dry spells, the water will available on Wednesday evenings.

A reminder for all: The watering of plots directly using hose pipes and sprinklers is not permitted. Please use water butts. Water should never be taken from the brook.

The water funding for the site is limited annually, the association must pay for any excess used over our allocation. It therefore makes good sense to make use of rain harvesting, from your greenhouse or shed.

If you need help obtaining more water butts, or installing a rain harvesting system, let *Voirrey* know.

Committee update

It's been a busy few months for the committee, the big wins have been securing the lottery funding, helping the school get the best out of their plot, introducing a water rota, holding monthly meetings with a good turn out, having six people currently on the waiting list, and launching the new 'Facebook' page, sign up now if your not already a member.

As of April 2011, no tin sheeting is allowed on the site. Please ensure that any tin sheeting still on site is removed immediately. If you have any issues or queries regarding the removal of tin sheeting, please let us know at your earliest opportunity.

Branches from trees across the brook that are casting shade or creating a risk to the site are in the process of being removed by the committee. If you have any requirements for tree lopping around your plot, please contact *Voirrey* or *Mike*.

Sadly, *David Jarrett* has decided to resign from the committee as of April 2012. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank *David* for all his hard work and input to the committee over the years, and wish him all the very best for the future.

New starters

We are delighted to welcome some new members to the allotments. *Mark, Sarah, Catherine* and *Graeme* join us this season and I'm sure we'll all help to make them feel very welcome.

Islwyn Federation news

- The new Allotments in *Ravenswood Risca* celebrates their first anniversary.
- *Cwmcarn Allotment Association* leads the way! The Cwmcarn Association Constitution and Tenancy agreement has been used as a template for other allotments in the area to follow. We look forward with interest to hear how they get on.
- The federation held a site inspection in March 2012 and reported positively on the community feel and the good overall condition of the Cwmcarn site.

Shed Stores sales and price list

We have a selection of goods now on sale in the shed. These are excellent value and all of the profit goes straight back into the Association's funds. To buy, just see a committee member or *Brian* at the Shed.

Price list

Compost £3.20

Lime £3.50

Chicken Manure £5.80 a bag

Shallotts 40p bag*

Potatoes 20p/lb*

Growmore 40p/lb

Blood, Fish & Bone 40p/lb

Slug Pelletts £1 a tub

*Half price sale.

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

Rubbish in Brook

There appears to be some allotment waste either being dumped or getting blown into the brook and being washed downstream. Under no circumstances should rubbish, vegetable trimmings or clods of earth be thrown into the brook. Items being washed downstream may cause flooding due to the blockages it creates.

Interested in joining a brook clean up team? Contact *Voirrey*.

Fire notice

Please take some time to read the fire notice, which is now on the site notice board. This gives guidance on fire safety and resident's consideration.

Complaints Policy

A new complaints policy is now up and running for the association. This will mean that any complaints received will be treated with fairness, discretion, and responded to within 14 days. If you would like a copy of the policy please let *Voirrey* know.

Allotment Facts and Trivia

- Did you know that there are 57 people waiting per 100 plots in the UK? This is according to the Allotment Waiting List report for 2011 produced by the National Society for Allotment and Leisure

Gardeners. That means more than 86,000 people in the UK are waiting for a plot.

- Sadly, over the past decade between 5,000 and 10,000 plots have been lost.
- About 4,300 people are waiting for an allotment in London alone.
- The rent for most British allotments is due on St Michaelmas Day, 29 September, the day on which agricultural rents have traditionally been paid.
- Rental costs vary tremendously across the country. Some pay as little as £8.00 pa and others £80.00. Most tend to be in the region of £20 to £40 per year often with discounts for the unwaged, retired etc.
- Allotments in the UK date back to the 18th century. By 1873, there were 244,268 allotments in Britain; by 1918, 1.5 million. The number then declined, falling to 600,000 by the late 1960s. Today, there are an estimated 300,000 allotments, yielding about 215,000 tons of fresh produce every year.
- In the UK, the size of allotment plots is measured in "rods". One rod equals 25.29 square metres. Though there is no set standard size but the most common plot is 10 rods, an ancient measurement equivalent to 302 square yards or 253 square metres.

Up and Coming Events

Moth Night

11 May 2012

Forest Drive

Tel: 01495 272001

Caerphilly Flower Festival

25 May 2012 - 27 May 2012

The Twyn Caerphilly

Tel: 02920 880011

Caerphilly Food Festival

26 May 2012

Caerphilly Castle Street

Tel: 029 2088 0011

Welsh Perry & Cider Festival

01 Jun 2012 - 04 Jun 2012

Ynysddu Rugby Club

Tel: 01495 240983

Diamond Decades

04 Jun 2012 - 05 Jun 2012

Winding House, New Tredegar

Tel: 01443 822 666

Explore life in Wales in the last 60 years.

Armed Forces Day

16 Jun 2012

Tredomen

Tel: 01443 863218

Come along and join in the parade around Ty Penallta, followed by a fete.

Contact Us:

Druids Summer Solistic Walk

21 Jun-2012

Forest Drive

Tel: 01495 272001

Join this fantastic walk to Twmbarlwm where Druid friends will reveal the significance of the summer solstice and you will get the chance to watch the sun set over dramatic scenery.

Blackwood Summer Festival

30 Jun 2012 - 01 Jul 2012

High Street Blackwood

Tel: 02920 880011

Changing Seasons Walk

08 Jul 2012

Forest Drive

Tel: 01495 272001

Lotions, Potions, Herbs and Health

08 Jul 2012

Llancaiach Fawr Manor

Tel: 01443 412248

Discover the uses of the 17th Century plants in our garden - for food, beauty, medicine and household purposes.

Further information on all these events can be found at visitcaerphilly.com

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.



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Cwmcarn Allotment Association