



West Wickham Allotments Ltd

www.wwallotments.org.uk

Newsletter – December 2023

From our Chairperson

We are now getting to the end of another year and what a year it has been. We have had lots of hot, cold, wet and dry weather, but we have not had what we wanted when we needed it - like the famous Morecombe and Wise sketch, playing all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order!

Our A.G.M. will be held in February, all necessary details and documents will be sent out in good time. The Committee hope that you will be able to come along.

Wishing you all a good Christmas and New Year.

Tony



Notes from the Trading Shed

It's been a busy year in the Shed with lots of new plot-holders coming in to stock up on seeds, gloves and advice from our lovely helpers. We wish them much planting and harvesting enjoyment in the coming year. If there's anything anyone feels we should stock in the shop, just come in on a Sunday between 10.30 and 12.30 and talk to one of us and we'll see how we can help.

The shop is closed now until **7th January 2024** and we look forward to seeing you again then. If you can spare a few hours once a month, or possibly less, to help serve in the shop, please let us know. We'd love to welcome you.

The potatoes will arrive in the middle of January and will be ready for collection at the beginning of February so that you can begin chitting them. Yung Min will email when they're ready. If you haven't pre-ordered, don't worry - there are lots of everyone.

Fothergills seed orders will arrive after Christmas and we'll let you know when they're in, so that you can begin sowing for early crops.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Liz and Viv



From the Secretary's desk

We had an enjoyable craft fair last month with the allotment holders selling their own handmade goods and although not as well attended as hoped due to the terrible weather, we all had an enjoyable time.

Some items from our talented plot holders.



Our Christmas drinks get-together last Sunday was very enjoyable, many thanks to those who provided the delicious nibbles, and the famous raffle raised £140.00 for St. Christopher's - well done everyone.

On an historical note - well, it's that time of year

I have been given a booklet called 'A short history of West Wickham Allotments from 1912 to 1975'. This is really interesting and a copy is held in the Trading Shed if you like to see it.

Here are a few examples from the history:

No records appear to exist of the origin of the Allotments but some tenants told Mr Jefferies, who had a plot on the allotment from 1931 to his retirement in 1975, that the Allotments were created in 1912. The history is composed from the Minute Books and the memories of Mr Jefferies.

A field on the Hawes Lane frontage was taken in 1912 and divided into plots, 1-65, (65 being a herb garden). A second field was acquired between the first field and the sports ground in 1918 and divided into plots 66 to 94, making a total of 7.25 acres. These fields were probably part of Church Rectory land. The first mention of rent for the whole site was £14 15s 3d paid to the Rector from October 1926 until 1937. A rent of £12 per half year was paid to Mr G Rogers in 1936 but from 1937 it was completely taken over by Beckenham Council until 2019 when we became a limited company and rent is now paid to Bromley Council.

Some of the Allotment land was lost in 1935 in order for Glebe Way to be built and in 1936 Hawes Lane was widened changing a lane into a road which also used some of the Allotment site. In the 1970s the demand for Allotments increased until there were 50 people on the waiting list. The Trading Shed was built in 1938, built of timber with roofing felt and in 1974 a garage was kindly donated which increased the size of the trading shed. During the war the site where the lockers are was used for raising pigs. How things have changed!

Have a lovely Christmas.

Viv

