

Court Oak Road and Tennial Lane Allotments Association

FIFTH NEWS LETTER FEBRUARY 2014

<http://www.buddlejagarden.co.uk/allotment/home.html>

Annual General Meeting And Emergency General Meeting

Tuesday 18th March 2014

7:30pm

Quinborne Community Centre

All plot-holders are welcome. Please can you advise the Chair or Secretary before the meeting if you wish to make nominations for Officers or the Committee, or submit a resolution to amend the Constitution.

This year the management of Birmingham's allotments will be changing drastically with most of the City Council Allotments Office's duties transferred to the Associations, including devolved budgets for water, sewage and maintenance. There will no longer be support from a full-time Allotments Liaison Officer. Our Association is required to sign a new Management Agreement and this has implications for *every* plot-holder.

See: <http://www.buddlejagarden.co.uk/allotment/fam.html>

Please make every effort to attend the meeting and can we also appeal for more people to come forward to help on the Committee. If there isn't an active Association you could wind up paying far more for your plot or even losing the Allotments altogether.

COURT OAK ROAD SHOP

Our principal income is derived from CORTLAA Shop, we seek to make a modest margin, and provide a service to plot holders and local gardeners (Associate Members). During 2013 we sought to establish a new less cluttered layout and relocated the counter to the back of the Shop (Shed), thus allowing more people to queue/wait in comfort. We have also made overhead roller mechanisms to support ground cover, fleece and anti bird netting. These make it easier to measure quantities and avoid being run over in the road.

Andrew Moseley introduced a seed stand, all packets £1.00 and this has been very popular. Stuart Guest has introduced Onion Sets and Seed Potatoes. We will introduce new lines this year including Jeyes Fluid. See notice boards for details.

The shop will re-open on Sunday February 23rd, 11:00am – 12:00 noon.

WATER CONSERVATION IMPORTANT

As stated above Birmingham City Council (BCC) is devolving the Water Budget based on a share of the overall water budget for the City's allotments. However, if water consumption exceeds the budget we must pay the excess from our limited funds. Therefore, water conservation is now more essential. During 2012 we purchased and sold forty-five 205 litre water butts. To further increase water storage the Committee has voted to buy four 1000 litre IBC's. These will be filled from water run-off from toilets and shop/sheds.

We will purchase more 205 litre water butts and these will sell at £8.00. Water conservation is not filling your water butt from a tap, but capturing/saving water from guttering. Our apologies for stating the obvious.

OPEN DAY

At last good news. The City Council is providing us with Public Liability Insurance, which will allow us to hold an Open Day and hopefully attract more plot holders to the Court Oak site and more Associate Members to buy from the shop.

AGM Tuesday 18th March 2014 7.30pm

Please support the AGM: NOT A SINGLE non-Committee member attended last year's AGM. The Committee members are all volunteers and under new arrangements will have significantly more responsibility. If the Committee folds you may not have an allotment.

Contact: Secretary - Andrew Large
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