



[Trap Ground] spring newsletter 2011

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TRAP GROUND ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Spring Newsletter 2011

Access

The Inquiry into the Chiltern Railways proposal heard our objections to the closure of the level crossing on three occasions during the formal hearings and the inspector visited our site on 2nd February by way of concluding our evidence.

Stella Boswell, Joe Lee, and Hoonie Feltham gave evidence as witnesses for us, Jonathan Clark made a detailed case against the data submitted by the railway's level crossing expert to demonstrate the minute risk involved in its use, and Tony Hollander gave evidence to illustrate its safe use and the inconvenience of the alternatives proposed. Peter and Carol Jarvis submitted evidence to show the difficulties of the bridge path, and Ian Salisbury proposed alternative plans for car parking and gave a very thorough closing submission on our behalf.

We are told to expect the results of the Inquiry and the Minister's decision to be made public in the late summer. Plans of the proposals, mitigation measures and more details will be available at our AGM.

Trees

The city council tree team pollarded the willows along the northern border, felled a number of trees within the site and cut down most of the overgrown coppiced hazels. Some of the tree boles were also ground out so we will have a few new plots available for cultivation.

The council vehicles left a few deep ruts in the paths so in the interests of the mowers it would be very helpful if people would fill them in whenever they have spare turves from their spring digging.

Lettings Secretaries

Vibeke Mannion has decided to stand down as a letting secretary but will continue with her hard work running our shop. Virginia Wallis has offered to take her place and will join Carol Jarvis. We are very grateful to Vibeke for doing this job which she first took on in 2004.

Fees for the 2011 year

The committee has decided that, after a careful analysis of the financial situation, it will be necessary to increase the fees this year. We need to build up a reserve in order to be in a position to replace essential items of machinery and especially the mowing tractor. It will not be possible to generate a sufficient surplus to allow this at the present level of fees which are lower than those at most comparable allotments in Oxford.

The new scale of fees will be:

Membership: £15 (reduced to £12 for early payment)

Fee per half plot: £15 per half plot (reduced to £12 for early payment).

Members with a half plot will pay a total of £24 if payment is made by March 31st.

Members with a whole plot will pay a total of £36 if payment is made by March 31st.

The discounts for retired members will remain.

Invoices will be sent out at the end of February 2011. Please do not make any payment until you receive an invoice.

2011 photo competition

This year's theme for plot-holders entering the photo competition is "structures". Could be a shed, a compost bin or any structure that grabs your attention. The closing date for entries will be 12 October. All entries submitted will be posted on the web site. Please include a suitable caption with any photo, together with your name and plot number. Details of how to submit up to three photos are on the web site.

New seed discount scheme

TGAA members can now order discounted seeds, plants and other gardening sundries from Dobies (highly regarded by Gardening Which? for both value and germination rates), Marshalls online Gardening Club and Thompson & Morgan which offers discounts of up to 50% on seeds. Orders can be placed throughout the year provided enough members place orders to achieve the minimum bulk order of £100. These schemes replace the King's seed scheme from now on. To request catalogues and order forms, email virginia.wallis@whatho.net.

Discounts at local garden centres

We are in the process of negotiating a 10% discount on purchases at Yarnton Nurseries for TGAA members. To secure the discount, you will need to present the new TGAA membership card which will be available from the allotment shop or TGAA secretary, Virginia Wallis for a modest charge of £1 per card. More details will be available once negotiations with Yarnton are complete. We will also be approaching other garden centres in the Oxford area - suggestions welcome to virginia.wallis@whatho.net.

Plant Sale

Please prepare your plants for this again this spring. Last year's event was a record for our funds and we hope to repeat its success; date below.

Key dates for your diary

Friday 8 April: Allotment Association AGM, 8pm at St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road

Sunday 22 May: Annual Plant Sale, St Margaret's Institute

Saturday 12 November: Harvest Supper, St Margaret's Institute

Please note these dates in your diary. More information will be sent out about all these events nearer the time.

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