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[Trap Ground] TGAA spring newsletter

1 message

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To: TGAA <trapgroundallotments@googlegroups.com>

TRAP GROUND ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**Spring Newsletter 2015****Annual General Meeting**

The 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road on Tuesday 17th March 2015. Please come early for drinks and nibbles which will be available from 7.45 p.m when you will also be able to pay your plot fees (but only by cheque made payable to 'TGAA'). The business of the meeting will begin at 8 p.m. An agenda will be sent out before the meeting. The committee will be standing for re-election but if you would like to stand for election, please let the TGAA Secretary know which of the following posts you would be interested in taking on: chairman; deputy chairman; secretary; treasurer; lettings secretary (of which there are two); pest control; plant sale, machinery, communal compost and bonfires; website.

Railway update

The City Council rejected Network Rail's latest application for the works at Aristotle Lane at its planning meeting on 10th February 2015 so the bridge replacement, car park and other matters are delayed again. Details of the allotment ramp, its design, colour, gates, access, etc. are still to be decided, as are details of the paths to the main railway bridge. The proposal to raise the western end of the bridge path above flood levels was opposed by Natural England and others and to avoid further planning delay, Network Rail dropped this from their application as a mitigation measure for the level crossing closure.

The city has made its rights to the level crossing conditional on all mitigation measures being fulfilled so we should be able to use it for some time yet. Application to raise the flooded path is a separate matter which may be raised later.

Despite promising to give us about a yard of land to the eastern side of our boundary fence, Network Rail and Morgan Sindall have constructed their new fence right up against ours, so that the chance of widening the eastern path for tractor deliveries of manure and so on, has been missed again. We have pointed out that NR have built outside their old boundary on what appears to be our land and the city council property and legal departments are trying to establish whether this trespass is worth challenging and correcting.

Plot inspection

The committee will shortly be undertaking a plot inspection and will report back at the AGM.

Plant sale

The annual TGAA plant sale will take place at the St Margaret's Institute on Sunday 17th May 2015 between 10.00 and 1.30. You will be able to bring plant, and other, donations to the institute from 4.00 on Saturday 16th May. Last year's plant sale raised just over £1,000 making it one of our main sources of income. Please don't forget the plant sale when splitting garden perennials or house plants, sowing vegetable seeds or propagating cuttings. We will also be continuing with the jam, chutney and honey stall so if you have surplus preserves as well as surplus plants to give, your donations will be more than welcome.

Composting and bonfires

The communal compost heaps are intended as a service to all and are looked after by Michael Wheale who is looking for someone to help him run this communal facility. The big heaps get up to quite a high temperature and rapidly break down plant material into good compost to go back into the soil. You can put almost any vegetable matter in the communal compost, including annual and perennial weeds. It is not helpful – as some people have been doing - to put junk, big roots woody matter, brassica stalks potatoes or tomatoes in the compost because it takes time to take them out.

For organic matter that can't be composted there is the communal bonfire that we organise so it burns up fast and hot and only when the wind is away from the railway line, the local houses and ourselves.

For matter which can't be composted or put on the bonfire, such as plastic, old netting, metal waste and so on, there is the skip by the Port Meadow gate. If there is no skip, please keep waste matter on your plot until there is.

Seeds

Seeds and a wide variety of seed potatoes are now on sale in the allotment shop (open 11 –1 on Saturdays 2-3 on Sundays unless it is raining). You can also pick up a Dobies seed catalogue and special order form which will enable you to benefit from a 50% discount on seeds ordered direct from Dobies.

Harvest supper

This year's harvest supper will be held on Saturday 21st November 2015. Many thanks to Gillian and Stuart Skyte arranged another very enjoyable evening last November 8th and the quality and abundance of the food was superb, as ever.

Gillian's organisation and decorations combined perfectly with Stuart's witty and gentle interrogation of our general and gardening knowledge, and Jonathan Clark conjured a continuous display of our photographs and awards of the consequent prizes.

Mowing team

Thanks again, to those who kept the site looking in good order last year by mowing paths and contributing to the compost production with grass cuttings. Please let Tony know if you are able to join the mowers this year and he will add you to his list and try to find a suitable date for your turn with the mower.

Please help the mowing team by keeping objects and debris off the main paths. Anything which came from your plot should be stored on your plot or taken to the skip, if appropriate.

Pest control

There's nothing we can do about the badgers but if you find rats on or around your plot, Pete Jarvis (plot 88) can provide you with bait boxes and poison.

Shared equipment

The Association has a range of equipment available for use by plot-holders. It is stored in the shed by the Port Meadow gates together with full instruction manuals and safety advice. Members wishing to make use of the equipment must first be shown how to use them and must sign a form confirming that that you agree to that, and that you take personal responsibility for the safe use of the equipment.

Instruction in the use of the equipment is available from the members listed in the following table on the TGAA website: <http://www.trapgroundallotments.org.uk/shared-equipment>.

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