

## ALLOTMENT POPULARITY

Allotments are becoming increasingly popular. Currently we have a waiting list of 17 people, anxious to 'grow their own'.

Taking advise from Liverpool City Council, it has been agreed that new members will be offered a half plot, enabling more people to enjoy our allotment.

Some people who have a full plot may find it hard to manage and just covering it with black plastic isn't really the answer in the long term, Not only is it unsightly, but a waste of land. Liverpool City Council stress that weeds should be kept under control. Weeds from unkempt plots can spread to those adjacent to them.

**NOTE** – are you experiencing any difficulties?

Anyone having difficulty with their plot may speak to a committee member for advice, or if you have a full plot and feel that you would be better able to cope with a smaller area, then arrangements may be possible to split your plot in half. A confidential chat with a committee member may result in your being able to enjoy working your 'reduced size' plot.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 5th October 2008  
11.00am

The AGM will be chaired by Mr J. Frost (Society president)  
It is the opportunity to elect, or re-elect committee members, and all plot holders are invited to attend.

The Chairman John Byrne and Secretary Daniel Barrington will be resigning at the AGM. We will also be looking to elect an Auditor and New Committee Members.  
Anybody interested in these positions should speak to a member of the Committee.

The Committee Meets monthly on the first Sunday of each month if you would like something to be discussed at a meeting you must put it in writing to the Secretary one week before the meeting.

## GREEN MANURES

Jeff Frost and John Hibbert have grown green manure on their plots this year. Green Manure is grown as a cover crop and then dug into the soil to add nutrients and organic matter. Reasons for growing the crop are:

-To add plant foods to the soil

-To protect the soil, from heavy rains which can compact soils and wash out nutrients

-To improve the soil structure

- To smother weeds

- To Control pests and encourage beneficial insects

There are lots of different varieties and the growing periods range from 1 month to 1 year. Ideally the plants should be dug into the ground before flower buds appear if you don't you run the risk of the plant going to seed. Seeds for Green Manure are available from the discounted seeds scheme from Kings Seeds, catalogues are available in the site office.



## Ashfield Voted the Best

Eleven allotment sites in Liverpool were inspected by independent judges, together with a representatives from Liverpool City Council, and ours was judged to be THE BEST! Well done to all who have worked hard and special thanks to Daniel for his commitment.

Congratulations to George Holmes Plot 67 for winning the best plot on our site.  
What a triumph!!

Quote from judge's comments-'

*Liverpool Allotments Competition 2008 results:*

*Best site overall based on Judges Comments and Recommendations*  
**Ashfield Allotments**

*'This site has continued to improve and there are very few neglected plots , the new drainage at the far end of the field now provides an opportunity for 100% take up on this site, The continued improvements include a raised bed communal picnic area and indoor polytunnels , pathways are well maintained . Voted overall competition winner'*

## The Flower and Vegetable Show

Saturday 16th August  
1.00pm to 4pm,  
Awards Presentation 3.30pm



Entry forms are now available from committee members.

It's been some years since we had a show and we want to make it very special. Everyone is encouraged to enter, see page 2 for what you can enter.. See notice boards for updated information. We are hoping to have refreshments available. All volunteers are welcome.

Trophies will be presented for the Most Points in the Show, Best exhibit in the Vegetable Section, Best exhibit in Flower Section and Best Exhibit in Novice Section.

### **Quick Turnover**

To see an example of what can be achieved in four months, do have a look at plot number 4. When James acquired his plot it was overgrown, recently flooded and bedevilled by the dreaded mare's tail.



## **Flower Show Schedule**

### **Vegetable Section**

- 1) Three onions each to be 250g or Under, dressed
- 2) Dish of six shallots
- 3) Dish of four potatoes, white
- 4) Dish of four potatoes, other than white
- 5) Dish of four potatoes, 2 white, 2 other than white
- 6) Six Tomatoes, cherry or other small cultivar
- 7) Three Tomatoes, Medium sized
- 8) Dish of Nine pods of peas
- 9) Dish of six runner beans
- 10) Dish of six french beans
- 11) Three Globe beetroot
- 12) One Sweetcorn cob
- 13) One Cucumber
- 14) Three sticks of rhubarb
- 15) Three carrots short
- 16) Three carrots long

25p per entry

- 17) One Lettuce, Butterhead type with clean roots
- 18) One Lettuce, Cos type with clean roots
- 19) One Cabbage with clean roots

### **Flower Section**

- 20) One vase of annuals, mixed, maximum of 15 stems
- 21) One vase of sweet peas, mixed, 12 stems
- 22) One vase, one spike of Gladioli
- 23) One pot plant flowering, max 6" pot

### **Novice Section**

- 24) Three potatoes, any variety
- 25) Three tomatoes, any Variety
- 26) Three onions each to be 250g
- 27) Three vegetables, any variety
- 28) One vase of flowers, any variety or varieties

### **SITE DEVELOPMENT WORK**

On the Communal Allotment we now have the raised beds, pathways and polytunnel built. We have 3 groups that are expected to use the area next year. Thanks go to George Holmes for his hard work in creating the bedding areas around the polytunnel and apple tree.

The new drainage system has been installed at the back of the site by Liverpool City Council. The council plan to bring in top soil and then the plots will be redesigned into half plots.

### **PLOT INSPECTIONS**

Liverpool City Council have now requested that allotment Committees carry out plot inspections every few weeks. Daniel is asked to write to people who don't appear to work on their plots. This system operates throughout the city, so please don't blame Daniel if you get a letter, he is just carrying out the rules of the system. He, and other committee members, are UNPAID VOLUNTEERS, and are here to help and advise members.

### **MACHINERY**

A strimmer is available for hire for £2. You must arrange this in advance (at least one days notice) with the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or Storekeeper. A lawnmower is available for hire for £2. You must arrange this in advance (at least one days notice) with the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or Storekeeper. A plot can be rotavated for £10 and this will be done by someone who is trained to use the rotavator. Your plot MUST be prepared by digging the ground first to check for buried items that could damage the machine or injure the user. A Shredder is available for hire for £2. You must arrange this in advance with the secretary giving at least one weeks notice. It is necessary to give advance notice as machinery is petrol driven and arrangements have to be made to bring petrol on to the site. Please remember that Committee Members are volunteers and are UNPAID and any work they carry out is in their own free time and at their own convenience.

### **REMINDERS**

The gates must be locked at all times  
Plot holders should not park their cars on the main pathway. A car may be taken down to deliver items but MUST be returned to the car park area.  
You must not water your plot with a hose  
Please show consideration to other plot holders, do not go on to another person's plot without their permission.

### **STORES**

**Please use our Stores—the prices are competitive with a wide range of items. Any Small Profit we make is helpful to our funds. See Notice board for details and price list.**

### **NOTICE BOARDS**

**Please read the notice boards they are updated regularly with important information that all plot holders should know.**