



NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 12 January/February

Happy New Year

2012 will hopefully be a positive, prosperous and productive year for all of you. Now is the time to decide what to plant and what seeds to buy, (at time of writing, Otters Nursery is selling Thomson and Morgan seeds at half price!).

Fortunately the shed and the polytunnel are still standing despite the wind, there are signs of new growth on some of the allotments, broad beans, shallots and garlic all poking their heads through, and it will not be long before other crops take root.

Have a great season growing and socializing with your allotment friends.

Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 12th Feb. 2pm – AGM

May TBC Plant Swap

October Harvest Supper

Congratulations to Lorna Sherriff out National Trust representative who gave birth to a daughter Maisie in December!

WEEDS

There are now two collection areas for weeds at the north west side of the allotments, labeled perennial weeds and woody stems. Please can you use these for disposing of unwanted non compostable allotment materials.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Society will be held on Sunday 12th February at 2pm in the Community Shed.

We are looking for new committee members (nomination forms on the back page) some of you expressed an interest on the questionnaire!

The prize for the tallest sunflower will be awarded .

New ideas and projects for the coming year will be shared and discussed

The Water Issue will be revisited .

Refreshments (mulled wine) will be served free of charge.

We look forward to seeing you all there!!

WATER

You may have noticed that it has been raining quite a lot, which in allotment terms is good, but if you are on holiday not so good. However due to the shortage of water in spring last year the committee recommends that you use the water in the dip tanks (which are all full) to fill your own containers on your allotment . A large plastic dustbin can be purchased from between £10-£12 or Water butts can cost between £20-£30 . There is plenty of water now but there may not be later so use it while it is there!!

The Big Greenspace Challenge !

The Big Greenspace Challenge is intended for groups who are interested in enhancing their local landscape for the wider community to enjoy the benefits of green space in their local area. Grants to a maximum of £20,000 are available .

The committee came by an application form two weeks before the closing date , so with minimal time for consultation, submitted an application for monies to improve the community shed by installing electricity using solar panels, make the access to the shed easier for those with mobility difficulties, safe storage area in the shed for tools and to develop a play area using natural materials such as willow. (there was only a small space to write in)

To our amazement we were allocated the maximum grant. We have now met with the project officers from South Hams District Council who will work in partnership with us to oversee what we do is within the guidelines of the grant.

If that is not enough, if we feel there are other large projects we wish to undertake we can reapply for more money in the autumn!!

**If you have any comments that you wish to share with others regarding the allotments don't forget to email them to :-
wemballots@gmail.com**

Volunteers Required

We require volunteers to help erect guttering around the polytunnel with the view of collecting and storing water within the vicinity of the polytunnel.

If you can help can you let one of the committee members know or email us at wemballots@gmail.com

Thanks

HARVEST SUPPER

Again a good time was had by those who attended (80 people), the food was delicious , the quiz was fun and the atmosphere lighthearted and warm.

A big THANK YOU to all of those who prepared and cooked food, to those who helped organise the event and to all those willing volunteers who helped on the day.

Again Many Thanks and hopefully we will see you all at this years event.

Thank you to those who filled in the questionnaire and returned it with their tenancy agreement. The information is helpful for future planning on the allotments.