



City of Ely Allotments Association

September 2017 Newsletter

www.elyallotments.com

View from the Chair

It is difficult to know whether to call this a summer or an autumn newsletter, as due to the mixture of sun and rain making ideal growing conditions, all the crops are several weeks in advance. However, the year marches on and the plots have been independently judged with allowances made for the crops already lifted. The winners will be notified and it is hoped that they, and many other plot holders, will be able to attend the Awards Evening at 7.30pm on Monday 4 September at 'Centre E' on Barton Road.

Throughout this year we have continued to carry out improvements to the sites when and wherever possible. The water supply installed on three sites was much used during the hot dry spell earlier this year, and once the Ely Southern Bypass has been completed we shall look again at a similar installation on the Bridge Fen site. The new boundary fence on the Back Hill site has, after a financial agreement with the City Council, been completed to everybody's satisfaction.

The idea of having an allotment still remains popular, most of our sites are full, and the waiting list is starting to increase again.

Looking to the future and bearing in mind that we on the committee are all getting older, the Association would like to encourage younger plot holders to become involved with the running of the allotments.

Graham Bond
Chair, Ely Allotments Association

Bridge Fen needs your vote!



Annual Awards

Presentation of Association Awards

**7.30 pm Monday 4 September at
Centre E (the Youth Centre),
Barton Road, Ely.**

Two guest speakers on topics of interest, presentation of annual awards, refreshments and an opportunity to meet ploholders from yours and other sites— what's not to like about this event!

Get down to Tesco Ely before 30 August and drop a blue token in the right-hand slot to raise funds for the Bridge Fen car park improvements.

Secretary's Report

The annual awards were once again judged by an independent and qualified judge from the National Allotments Association (NSALG). Congratulations to all the winners who are listed below, you will see there are some changes to the awards structure this year.

A J FENN CUP for best allotment in Ely (and winner's certificate)

Stewart and Teresa Bye – Bridge Fen

2nd place certificate: Vala Carter – New Barns

Joint 3rd place certificate: Colin and Olive Bowles – New Barns
Rosemary Reardon – Bridge Fen

HOLDEN-ROLFE CUP for best small plot (and winner's certificate)

Alan Church – New Barns

2nd place certificate: Gareth and Bev Owen – Upherds Lane

Joint 3rd place certificate: Dave Tomlins – Upherds Lane
Kate and John Mitchell – Upherds Lane

MICHAEL UNGAR MEMORIAL CUP for best newcomer (and winner's certificate)

Zenia Cornwell – Bridge Fen

2nd place certificate: Stephen Foot – New Barns

3rd place certificate: Baiba Bertule – New Barns

The following are new trophies which will be retained by the winners.

JACK CLARKE TROPHY for best plot on Bridge Fen Stewart And Teresa Bye

MAURICE HOBBS TROPHY for best plot on New Barns Vala Carter

NIGEL CLARKE TROPHY for best plot on Upherds Lane Gareth and Bev Owen

JACK KEMP TROPHY for best plot on Back Hill & Canterbury Avenue Lisa Harbinson

Finally we have a special new trophy presented on behalf of the site reps on Bridge Fen, which we plan to award occasionally for what we feel is a particularly outstanding effort. This year the **PETER MERTON TROPHY** goes to James Meers for the best plot by an under 40 year old.

Linda Adams

Secretary to the Ely Allotments Association

Site Rents 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018

Details of plot rent renewals will be circulated shortly to all members of the association. These will be sent by email to the email address we hold on file (if you have one) or on paper to non-email users. Please ensure we have your correct contact details if they have changed this year.

Rents can be paid by bank transfer, or in person on Saturday 30 September 2017 at the Ely Hort Soc shop at the Beet Club, Lynn Road, or by post. Full details will be provided on your rent notice.

Rents will be at the levels agreed by the March 2017 AGM. All rents must be received by the end of October 2017 and any plot holders with outstanding rent after this time will be considered to be in breach of their tenancy agreement.

Bridge Fen site report by Linda Adams

We are being kept up to date by Cambridgeshire Highways about the new site entrance at Bridge Fen. As soon as we have any definite news on this we will put it on the emails and the notice board so everyone knows exactly what's happening and when.

The saga of the horse poo is still continuing. We keep getting what seems like promising offers of free stuff that don't seem to materialise. If we get fresh stuff it needs to be stored for at least six months before you can use it. The best advice I can give at the moment is if any appears at the top of the site and you want some of it by all means go and take it.

This year has been one of the more difficult on Bridge Fen especially the way the weeds suddenly sprang up almost overnight after the heavy rain. We are very pleased to see bumper crops in spite of the shaky start, proving that rolling up your sleeves and getting going with the hoe works wonders no matter what the weather throws at us.

We would like to welcome all the people who have taken plots on Bridge Fen in the past year and wish good luck to those who are leaving. We would like to thank the man who strimmed the grass beyond the middle car park. Parking space is at a premium at present, so we ask that all cars are parked in an orderly manner giving consideration to others, so as to maximise the space available.

Happy gardening

Ken, Linda, Stewart, Teresa, Cahal
Site reps

Treasurer's report

This year with the help of money from the Tesco 'Bags of Help Scheme' and some of our own funds we were able to install a water supply on three of our sites.

We have reapplied to the Scheme and are currently at the voting stage, in the Ely store, for more money to assist in the creation of a new access road and car park on the Bridge Fen site.

The boundary fence on one side of the Back Hill site needed renewing, this has been carried out with joint funding from the City Council.

Katie Taggart
Treasurer



New Barns site report by Graham Bond

The year so far has been quite busy regarding site maintenance. Reinstatement of the main path following the water pipe installation has continued in addition to clearing a small plot with a view to planting an area of wild flowers, and the measuring and subdividing of plots, as well as the usual mowing and strimming.

We have also been fortunate this year with regard to thefts and vandalism, the only item to have disappeared was a wheelbarrow. The site is fully tenanted and most of the plots are well tended.

The newly-installed water supply was much used during the hot dry spell in June, but this was followed by a very wet July when watering was rarely required. Picking of the crops is now in full swing, most are supplying us with a bountiful harvest and certain ones, particularly soft fruit, are maturing early and being very prolific.



The site also enjoyed success in the annual judging, with one tenant being awarded the cup for the overall Best Small Plot.

Thoughts are now turning towards planning for the winter period. Site maintenance will continue and there is a new supply of manure to be arranged. The site reps will again be asking for volunteers to help in carrying out these tasks as they will be of benefit to all on the allotments.

Peter, John and Graham
Site reps

Canterbury Avenue & Back Hill

Not forgetting the two smallest sites managed by the Association: Back Hill has just two plots and is perhaps our best-kept secret, whilst Canterbury Avenue has enjoyed some revival of interest and enthusiasm this year.

Upherds Lane site report
by Peter Holden & Tamsyn Hardy

This growing season at Upherds has been truly productive! Following the water switchon in May the site has bloomed even during the very dry spells in May and June this year. The now easy availability of water from the new water troughs has certainly helped to keep everything growing. The new paths have improved access to the plots and made the trips to the water troughs quick and easy – something appreciated when the site was at its driest.

All site reps have been very cheered to see the amount of hard work all plot holders have put in to their plots – it is fabulous when arriving to see tall canes of climbing beans, huge squash plants (and at the moment there are some large pumpkins and squashes to be seen), cabbages and raspberries. There is even a patch of brambles in the corner producing some very tasty blackberries!

The judging of Upherds for the Best Small Plot has been completed along with the judging of our other Allotment Association sites. The results are announced in the secretary’s report and Upherds is well represented.

We have been approached by the students of Highfield School in Downham Road who have been looking for a local allotment plot they could use. We have agreed to look into this and have decided to meet staff and students on site in September. Fortunately, one of our plot holders is a staff member at Highfield and it is on her plot that the students

could start their endeavours. If that works well, they may be able to take on their own plot in the future. If anyone has any ideas, concerns or would like to be involved in this project to help, please let your site reps know. This could be an opportunity to help some of the most vulnerable young people in our area.

Wishing everyone happy and productive gardening!

Upherds site reps
Peter, John, Colin and Tamsyn

The main site path at Upherds Lane last year



How quickly we forget how it was...

News from the City of Ely and District Horticultural Society Stores

After a very busy spring things have slowed down considerably. Since the middle of June we have been lucky to see half a dozen members. Hopefully things will pick up during the Autumn.

The Kings seed catalogues will be available at the end of August at the stores. In September we will have autumn sowing broad beans, onions & garlic.

Our Stores in the grounds of the Ely Beet Sports & Social Club (Lynn Road, Ely, CB6 1DD) are **open to all**, though members of the Horticultural Society (only £8.00 per annum) benefit from a 10% discount on any purchases from the Stores.

Hope to see you soon.
Alan Jillings.

| STORES OPENING HOURS | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| February to November inclusive | December and January |
| Saturdays 10.00 to 12.00 noon | Saturdays 10.00 to 12.00 noon |
| Mondays 18.30 to 20.00 (except bank holidays) | |