

No pictures, no fancy fonts, just keeping you all informed! Sorry Phil!!

Manure

The manure piles are a valued and much used resource which is becoming increasingly difficult to source. Many stables are very happy for individuals to turn up and collect manure in their own bags or trailers, but do not have the means or desire to deliver for free. Veolia who brought us large amounts of manure occasionally, now say that the access is too narrow so they won't be returning. They were also unable to deliver to the east side.

Jane has approached many local stables and has organised fresh supplies. A large amount of manure has been delivered to the east and west sides, as well as the west side top car park. We have paid for a grab lorry to collect and deliver this manure as a trial. Please be neighbourly by not being greedy as the last Veolia 6 ton delivery was cleared by only a few people in a couple of days. If you need a lot please consider sourcing it yourself. We are going to try and put up a notice on the shop notice board of the local stables that are happy for people to come and collect manure.

Waste

This is also an opportunity to remind ourselves that much of the green waste can be composted, especially grass, annual weeds and vegetable plant waste. There were also piles of soil left on the green waste area recently. Soil should never be removed from plots as many people would be grateful for extra, as some are low lying. If you have soil to get rid of, then offer it to your neighbours or as a last resort put it neatly by the barbeque for others to take.

Please note - the waste bays are exclusively for allotment waste. The non-green waste bay is for example for netting, wood, carpets from your plot, packaging from garden goods etc. Vacuum cleaners, office chairs and bags of plasterboard for example should not be dumped. We do look at the CCTV and anyone seen to deposit rubbish or green waste from home can be identified - you risk losing your tenancy.

Flytipping

We also spotted some serious fly tipping on the green and non-green waste piles by a woodchip supplier. We challenged them about this but before they could come and collect it, the waste was cleared by Merton. They came and moved the woodchip pile back as they had dumped it all over the car park and cut up some rather large logs they had dumped. Graftin Gardeners will not be returning and have returned their keys. If you spot them on either side please let the committee know immediately. If you see anyone fly tipping please write down/photograph their registration, the date/time, let us know urgently and we will follow it up. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get Merton to clear our waste bays and if rubbish is obviously not from the allotments this service may be removed. They already refuse to remove certain items and the committee members have to take time to dispose of it themselves.

Garden Rocks

If anyone is doing some landscaping and needs some large limestone rocks there are a number on the boundary of plot 36A on the east side which are up for grabs. If you would like them please help yourselves. They are rather heavy though!

Plot Numbers

One of the difficulties in letting out plots to new tenants is locating them because many people do not have their plot numbers displayed. It is a requirement of your tenancy that your plot is clearly numbered and it makes life much easier – the wrong people won't be given NNC's and your plot won't be let to someone else! Please make sure that your plot number is displayed, either with a plaque on the front boundary or painted on your shed, if you have one.

Redwings

A rare sighting of about 50 redwings was made at the allotments recently. They have never been seen in such numbers before so this is really good news and shows what a haven and resource the allotments are for resident and visiting wildlife.

Plant sale – May 13th 2017

Please get some extra plants and cuttings going to the plant sale. This is an important fundraiser and a great way to add variety to your plant collections.

Stolen Honda motorcycle

Has anyone noticed an abandoned black Honda motorcycle on the allotment site? This was stolen through the back fence of a house in Whatley Ave bordering the west side. After watching the CCTV we know that the motorcycle did not go out through the west side gates. The police were involved and have asked us to look out for it.

Gates

Thank you to everyone who has been making the effort to shut the gates on entry and exit to the allotments. After a recent burglary the police asked us to review the CCTV on the entrance to the west side and it became apparent that there are 2 or 3 people who regularly disregard the safety and security of the site, and continue to leave the gates open. They know who they are and I appeal to their good sense and community spirit to take the extra few minutes to get out of their cars and shut the gates.

Many thanks to the small hard working committee team who keep the allotments running.

Regards

Jadzia Bruton - MAGA Chair