

August 2025

# MAGA

## MARTIN WAY ALLOTMENT NEWS



The AGM was held on Sunday 29th June 2025 in the marquee and many thanks to those of you who attended. The meeting was very productive with several suggested changes coming from the members.

The Management Committee is just five people including the Chairperson and the Committee meets ten times each year and the minutes are normally on the notice board within 10-12 days. The Committee is supported by volunteers

and the site couldn't operate without you. So thank you to the volunteers who look after the shop during opening hours. The volunteers who turn up on a Saturday morning to take part in the working parties. The inspectors who have an unenviable job of walking round and assessing the plots and making recommendations on those that need action. There are those which take on the responsibility of organising the plant sale including the raffle. The Produce Show and the Pumpkinfest. And those you know nothing about such as the guy that reads the water meters each month. But there are never enough and the Committee is currently looking for help on the management of the shop, read more later.

The Treasurer, Paul Brace, reported that annual income from members, excluding the water levy, increased to £20,228 approximately 6%. The Shop Trading and Plant Sale in 2024 plus the raffle and sale of refreshments contributed £3,000 to the net surplus for the year of £6,900 which has been added to the general reserve. There is no Corporation Tax to be paid and there are tax losses to carry forward of £4,039.

A resolution was put to the members present at the AGM to dispense with the requirement of an audit and this was passed unanimously.

The Secretary, Andrew Preece reported on several items but in this report there are three items of importance and will impact on several tenants.

1. Numbering of plots. This issue has been brought to the attention of tenants on several occasions. There was a proposal from the members present at the AGM that if a plot is not numbered by mid- September 2025 the tenant will be fined £20 on each occasion of a plot inspection. This proposal was passed unanimously and is effective immediately.

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MAGA Martin Way Allotment News is produced 2-3 times per year by Committee members and volunteers.

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To provide a submission for the next issue, please email [ivorstocker@sky.com](mailto:ivorstocker@sky.com)

## Annual General Meeting (cont.)

2. Misuse of hosepipes. A hosepipe must be handheld and not left unattended under any circumstances. At the AGM a proposal to impose a fine of £20 on each occasion a tenant breaks this rule was voted for unanimously. This comes into effect immediately.
3. Tenancy Termination. After the plot inspections in May 2025 22 Notice of Non Cultivation were issued and 3 Notice to Quit. This item was discussed at considerable length and the meeting concluded that the current rules were not working. A proposal was put forward from the members that a tenant who receives two Non Cultivation Notices in a 24 month period should automatically be given a Notice to Quit with no right of appeal. This proposal was passed unanimously.

The AGM traditionally recognises the contribution to our community and this year the Chairman's Award was presented to Kay Pryor for her years of service managing the shop volunteers and always being on hand when the shop is serving drinks and eats at our events...congratulations Kay.

The Margie Mulder award for the most improved plot from a newcomer this year goes to Rachael Brannon who took over plot 12 on the East Side in November 2024 and has done a great job in transforming this plot. Apparently the bees like her dahlias!! Congratulations Rachael.

The report from our Secretary, Andy Preece included the following items:

1. Artificial Grass. There are a number of concerns about having artificial grass on our sites and this material is banned from being used on paths. There is some evidence that when a mower passes over artificial grass it generates micro plastics which are not good for your health. This is being investigated. Should artificial grass be banned?

No final decision has been made.

2. Carpet material. Carpets are banned from being used on paths. The Committee is aware that some tenants do use carpet over winter to suppress the growth of weeds. There are other materials available and your Committee is recommending that no more carpet should be brought onto the site.
3. Emergency Access to the sites. This fortuitously has not been necessary but it is prudent to recognise that the emergency services, ambulance, fire and police may need to get entry urgently. This will be addressed by the installation of safe key boxes on the East and West sides with accompanying notices.
4. Website. The website has been under development in the last few months and is expected to go live in August. Details will be circulated at the time.





## Martin Way Apiary



It's now late July and unusually for this time of year the nectar flow (meaning the sugary substance our bees collect from flowers and turn into honey) is virtually finished. We usually have something called "the June gap" when Spring flowers have finished and summer flowers and fruits not quite started to flower. However, this year June provided an abundance of nectar and so July seems to have become June! As with so much of climate change, we are seeing changes year on year. This year we have already completed removing the honey supers (boxes) from the hives, ensuring we leave enough honey for the bees to eat over autumn and winter.

The next big task for us beekeepers is to monitor the Varroa mite drop on each hive in preparation for treatment of each hive to reduce these mites (they suck precious substances from the bees and also harm developing larva). There are a variety of treatments including organic treatments we can use as long as they are approved by the Veterinary Medical Directorate (VMD). They may take as long as 6 weeks to work so we need to plan ahead as always.

Thanks to everyone (as always!) for the flowers you grow for both our honeybees and of course all the other 269 species of bee.

Best wishes

**Alison (Apiary Warden)**



## Plant sale 2025

The Plant Sale is our main fund raiser in the calendar year and many thanks go to Steph Wyatt for taking on the responsibility of managing this successful event. Thankyou to Jadzia and her helpers for running a very successful raffle. The shop was open as usual for the serving of drinks and snacks including some very nice home-made cakes and savouries. Thankyou to Kay Pryor and her helpers .



## Plot holders open their garden for CHARITY



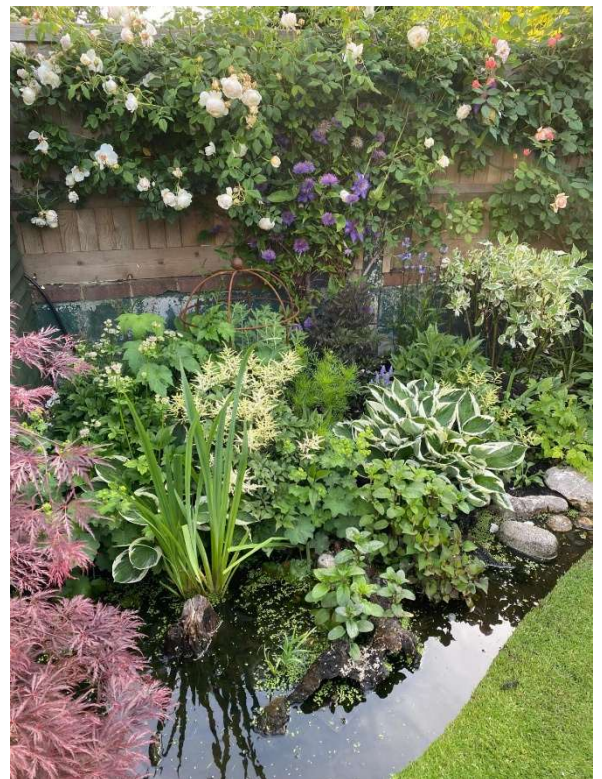
Martin and Primavera (Primi) Moretti, who won the Marjorie Mulder Prize in 2023 for Plot 147 which they had recently created from a wilderness of brambles, this year opened their garden in Burstow Road for the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

The NGS [[www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)] gives visitors unique access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens across the UK. In 2024 it donated over £3.5 million. Our core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

Aided by a stalwart team of friends the Morettis ran a plant stall and offered tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes. Guests were able to sit in the kitchen (handy, as the weather was mixed) or in two seating areas in the garden.

The garden is fairly small, but features several different areas, including an ornamental pond, home to several gracious koi carp and a wildlife pond teeming with tadpoles, froglets and newts. In addition, a well-stuffed herbaceous border was just getting going, with astrantia and astilbe coming into their own. The real stars of the show, however, were the roses in shades of delicate pink, cleverly mixed with deeper coloured pink and purple clematis.

Despite the weather, there were seventy visitors across the day and the event raised £830. Martin and Primi are hoping to be able to open again at a similar time next year, so do keep an eye on the National Garden Scheme website and emails from MAGA for details.





## Produce Show – 7th September 2025



Just a gentle reminder that the produce show is a little earlier this year and hopefully this will enable more people to make an entry. Vouchers to spend in the shop will be given to each category winner plus a bonus voucher for best in show. If you have any questions then email the Committee or speak to Phillippa Tribler the show organiser who can be found on plot 134 West Side most days



### TASTE

she mixed up  
some poison  
in the sauce  
for his dinner  
but rather  
absent  
mindedly  
tested it  
for taste

*pemcmanus*

*T189*

## Pumpkinfest – 26th October 2025

Pumpkinfest is on Sunday 26th October 2025 and will have the pumpkin carving competition for children and adults, food and drink and of course the bonfire....make sure this date is in your diary



### Dogs

You are very welcome to bring your dog to the site but the rules state that 'dogs may be brought onto the allotments if they are well-behaved and kept under control'. Do please comply as not everyone likes dogs "trespassing " on their plots.