

December 2016

# MAGA

## MARTIN WAY ALLOTMENT NEWS

### Message from the Chair

Since the last newsletter in August a lot has happened on the allotments. Most of us managed to recover from the floods in June and have a productive year from our plots. Simon and I were



particularly pleased as we managed to grow all the flowers for our daughter's wedding in October which many of you may have noticed. There were lots of sunflowers, cornflowers, zinnias, grasses, etc. It made the event more personal although I

wouldn't recommend it if you want to take some stress out of a wedding!



### The PRODUCE SHOW

The Produce Show in September went well with lots of new people entering. **Guy Cossey, plot 141**, won Best in Show and Largest Pumpkin, so very well done to him. He must be one of our youngest allotmenters and his plot is beautiful, well worth a walk up to. Many people came after the show to



enjoy the cakes and pickles that had been entered. Next year it would be lovely if more people brought produce to show off and join together for a social afterwards. The show is meant to be primarily for fun and an excuse to get together. The competition is for those who wish to take it more seriously.

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MAGA Martin Way Allotment News is produced 3-4 times per year by Committee members and volunteers.

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The views of contributors do not necessarily match the views or policies of the MAGA committee.

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

Editor Ivor. Design: Renata Graphic Design • [hello@renata.design](mailto:hello@renata.design) • [www.renata.design](http://www.renata.design)

## The PUMPKINFEST



The Annual Pumpkinfest went really well this year with over 100 people attending. The bonfire went up a treat, actually a bit too well to start with. Many thanks to all those who contributed firewood to keep it going. The soup and barbeque were enjoyed by many and Guy Cossey again won with his pumpkin carving. **If you know who this lovely smile belongs to, could you please let us know, as she won the children's competition?**



We were really pleased with the level of support from plot holders and their friends and family, this seems to have been the highlight of the year.



### NEW EVENTS - ANY IDEAS?

It has been suggested that it would be a good idea to have some different social events, one being a get together for new plot holders. If there is support for this we will endeavour to arrange this maybe once or twice a year. We have let quite a number of plots and are going to put a list on the notice board of new plot holders so that people can see if they have new neighbours. Please introduce yourself and stop for a chat if you see someone new. If you have any ideas for our allotment community please let the committee know, either by email or finding one of us on our plot.

## WASTE BAYS



There has recently been some domestic and building rubbish being left in the non-green bays. Please could I remind you that this facility is for allotment rubbish only and not for things from home.

The council have refused previously to collect stuff which is blatantly not from the plots and will leave it behind when they come or may refuse in the future to make any collections from us.

This also applies to the green bay which again is only for allotment waste and not garden rubbish from home. Please don't abuse these facilities or we may lose them.

If you need advice on composting please look at the last newsletter where there is a comprehensive article with references to additional advice (newsletter also available on the website).



## The **BREAD CLUB** looks forward to 2017 - Mike Gleeson

The Weekend Bread Club has a full programme coming up for 2017 which includes meet ups and practical hands on sessions at Members' homes as well as planned visits to a variety of artisan bakeries and mills (wind as well as water). If you'd like to know more do get in touch.



Argentinian yeasted empanadas



Moroccan semolina loaves



Baguette and sourdough

The Club has been meeting with great success since December 2015 and has gone from strength to strength. We get together one Saturday a month from late morning for a couple of hours.



Rolls fresh from the oven

There have been many highlights during the year - from Moroccan through to French breads including sourdough, from Middle Eastern celebratory loaves to traditional bakes from the British Isles as well as Argentinian yeast dough empanadas and Chinese steamed buns (stuffed and plain).

It's a fun, supportive and interesting group where we learn, investigate and experiment together. Sometimes Members bring bakes to share and discuss, other times they might lead a hands on session. And we eat what we bake together.

While we have a full programme set out, we're open to suggestions and improvements. There is no charge for the sessions or materials and no obligation to bake, make or bring anything - or even to host sessions.

If you'd like to join us you'll be made most welcome. Conditions for membership are: you must already bake bread and have a MAGA plot.

If you'd like to come and join us one Saturday or more...then please email me now:

[mikegleeson@archangelcomms.com](mailto:mikegleeson@archangelcomms.com)



Challah ready to eat

## **GRASS CUTTING TENDER**

We are hoping to employ someone to keep the main roads around the allotments mown and strimmed. There is a description of the job and a map of the areas to be cut on the notice board by the shop and is attached to this email newsletter. If anyone is interested in tendering for this please look at the details and send in an application.

## **EASTSIDE ROAD**

The entrance road on the east side needs some urgent attention and I have been in contact with the council throughout the year but they have no plans for doing this any time soon. I will continue to lobby them to fulfil their agreement with us, which includes maintaining the access roads. However, if this doesn't work we will consider the purchase of some material and organise a working party in the spring when the ground has dried out.

## **PRIVATISATION**

Following the placing of the new contract for running the LBM allotments and green spaces by a private company, the committee have been assured that nothing will change and that the contract conditions remain the same.

## **MAGA RECORDS**

When MAGA took over the running of the allotments LBM didn't provide details of the joint tenancies; only individual plot holder details. In order to update MAGA records could you please let us have a copy of your tenancy agreement if it is held in joint names. Don't worry; we do hold accurate records of all the main plot holders so we know where to send the bills!

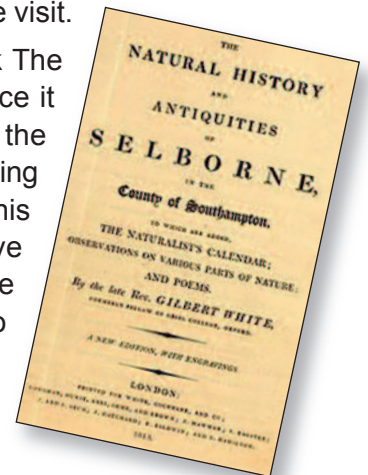
## GILBERT WHITE - Introduced by Peter Briggs, plot 79



Our fascination with the natural world around us makes having an allotment all the more interesting. Whether it is wondering where all those slugs come from, asking why the sun knows exactly when to shrivel up your seedlings or the rain to drown your beans. It could be just chatting to your friendly robin or experimenting with that odd courgette looking vegetable that looked great on the packet of seeds but takes over the plot triffid style. It might be you take a keen interest in rain gauges and recording temperatures and prefer sitting in your deckchair and watching the clouds scud by and wondering why you hear the bird singing but can't find it! Even possibly discovering a slow worm keeping cool under a piece of strategically placed carpet.

Well whatever pleasure you take from the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees you might well find **visiting Parson Gilbert White's cottage in Selbourne, Hampshire, worth a visit.** I have to confess I had taken little interest in who he was until my wife suggested we visit.

**Gilbert White** lived during the 18th century and is best known for his book *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*. It has never been out of print since it was published in 1890. Here was a man who had the opportunity during the second half of his life to enjoy doing exactly what many of us, I suspect, like doing except he took it a stage further. His book (a collection of his letters), and his journals recording day to day activities of the natural world is said to have influenced, amongst others, Darwin.. And he did this by hardly moving from the area he oversaw as the parish vicar. You don't need to have read the book to find the visit worthwhile, or his biography, as the information and displays in the cottage are very well presented. You can read in his own handwriting his problems growing melons and the effect of the severe frosts they had.



The cottage has a large garden and there are interesting walks from the village. As a bonus there is also an excellent museum on Frank Oates, the Victorian explorer, and Lawrence (famous for his immortal words "I am just going outside and may be some time") Oates and Scott's journey to the Antarctic.



## GATES & KEYS

Thank you to all those people who are keeping the gates closed and locking them at night. Hopefully this will reduce the levels of theft and vandalism that some plot holders have been experiencing. If you still do not have a gate key please contact the committee via the website or by finding one of us and arrange to purchase a gate key. You don't want to find yourself locked in! The shop is closed until the beginning of February.

**Happy gardening, from Jadzia Bruton and your hard working committee and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.**

## FRIENDS



his flowers  
his fruit  
and  
his veg  
always  
did well  
in the  
allotment  
autumn show  
but what  
made him  
more friends  
was brewed  
in his plot shed  
with his inherited  
Appalachian uncle's  
copper illicit still  
producing sweet  
'raw moonshine'  
'white whiskey'  
'mountain dew'.  
'hooch'  
all shared  
together  
with song  
after dark  
cheers!



pmcmanus  
s045





# GRASS CUTTING TENDER



MAGA  
MAGA Hut West  
Martin Way  
Raynes Park  
London  
SW20 9BS

11 November 2016

## **BIDS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS:**

### Description

To mow and strim the main grass paths, entranceways and marquee area of Martin Way West and Martin Way East allotment sites once per month from March until October inclusive.

### Detail

- Areas to be mowed/strimmed are as highlighted in green on attached map.
- Each path to be mown and strimmed on the same day.
- Work on West Side and East Side may be undertaken on different days but each side must be completed within one day, weather permitting.
- No weedkillers to be used without specific permission of the MAGA Committee.

Please specify in your bid whether you would use your own equipment or would expect to use the MAGA-owned petrol mower and petrol strimmer.

Should you wish to view the site, please contact [committee@maga.com](mailto:committee@maga.com) to arrange a suitable time.

Bids should be sent to [committee@maga.com](mailto:committee@maga.com)

Deadline for bids is 31 January 2017.