

June 2017

MAGA

MARTIN WAY ALLOTMENT NEWS



PLANT SALE

The last few weeks have been very busy on the allotments with Jane and her team preparing for the plant sale.

She managed a huge team of volunteers on Saturday who even brought some of their families along and it produced a happy good natured event where everybody, whether they were buying or selling, seemed to have a smile on their face (despite the cold weather at times). Peppei and Jane spent many hours potting and pricing the hundreds of plants donated and bought in. Thanks to all of you who managed to keep your plants looking so good and ready for sale, despite the weather and frost. Kay and Andy and their team had lots of donations of cakes and savouries and kept everyone fed and watered. The raffle had some fantastic prizes donated by our local sponsors. The total raised on Saturday was over £1200 after expenses and this will help us to fund the projects needed around the site this year. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way from setting up to the tidying afterwards, it was lovely to be part of such a happy team.



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WASTE BAYS



As you may have already realised Merton Council have outsourced the contract for managing allotments to Idverde, a French company who hope to profit from their deal. On Tuesday 9th May Margaret, Simon and I met with representatives responsible from Idverde for the allotment part of the project. We were surprised to learn that Idverde understand that they are only responsible for green waste collection and that the non-green waste was not included. They went away to clarify this but this is very different to what we were led to believe by LBM who said that the service would be unchanged. There is also the possibility that Idverde will refuse to take waste that is clearly not from the allotments.

With this uncertainty in mind it is worthwhile emphasising the importance of separating the green and non-green waste. Idverde have to pay £36 a tonne to dispose of Green waste but if it is contaminated by as little as a plant pot or plastic bag the whole load is reclassified as non-green and costs Idverde £116 a tonne, a cost they said they would plan to pass on to us. Since they removed 16 tonnes in April it's obvious that the financial implications could be grim if we were given a huge bill for the disposal at non-green rates.



For example if 10 tonnes of green waste were collected but was found to be contaminated then Idverde would give us a bill for the difference of £800. If this happened for each of the 6 collections all our money would be gone within a year and we could not continue. I understand that in the past the waste from the two bays on the west side were mixed together when the council loaded their trucks. This will not be happening in the future as there is a definite bottom line for Idverde.



Another change which we should all embrace is to compost all the green waste we produce and thus reduce the need for collections. Woody cuttings can be shredded by running the mower over them and even nasty perennials such as bind weed, horse tail and couch grass can be put in a bucket of water and left to rot before adding to the compost heap. Needless to say any green waste put in the waste bays should **ONLY** be from the allotments, please do not bring it from home unless you are adding it to your compost heap. The non-green waste bay is also **SOLELY** for rubbish which is generated from the allotments, such as netting, rotten wood or old carpet, etc. Please do not bring stuff from home and add it to the pile in the mistaken belief 'its ok as the council will collect it anyway, so what's the difference'. We are now dealing with a commercial company and they will refuse to take stuff which they deem unlikely

to have come off a plot. Only today I found a swivel armchair on the east side waste bay – if this was yours please remove it and take it to the council tip! Please take your home rubbish to Garth Road, you've put it in your car to get to Martin Way so go the extra mile and take it to the council tip.

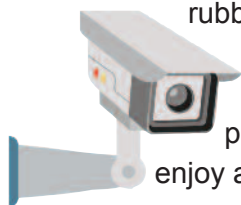
To improve the waste bays on the east side we are making two small bays on part of plot 31 (currently vacant) adjoining the current rubbish and manure area. One of these small bays will be for manure, the other for woodchip. This will leave the two large bays free so green and non-green waste can be separated. It will also leave the car park clear of woodchips, making more space for parking. This is the reason why no more manure was delivered to the east side as we need to reclaim the current manure bay as explained above. Once the new bays are constructed then we will arrange for another manure delivery to the east side next time. We have already asked Idverde to clear the remaining rubbish from the east side as it wasn't completely cleared last time. Once this is done we will re-label the bays as green and non-green waste.

ALL - Please be careful about what you put in the green piles and if you spot anything non-organic please pull it out and put it in the non-green waste.

Idverde have promised a collection every other month so hopefully we should never get to the size of the horrible piles which we have had in the past.

CCTV

We are in the process of upgrading the CCTV system adding more cameras to give us a clearer view of the waste, car park areas and roads on the west side. This is to enable us to prevent fly tipping of rubbish from off site. We have already caught some culprits this year so please make sure to smile and wave when you are near the waste bays and be aware that if unusual items or quantities of stuff turn up we will be able to check and trace the people responsible. Please don't jeopardise the waste collection service which we enjoy at the moment by abusing it.



MANURE

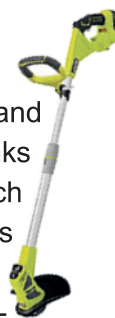


There has been more manure around this year than ever before, mostly thanks to Janes research and Simons cheek in intercepting a lorry on route to another allotment.

This resource is free to all but please don't be too greedy and be aware that some people can only get to their plots at the weekend so leave some for them. We are hoping to have a regular supply about every 6-8 weeks.

PATHS & BOUNDARIES

It's been lovely going around the allotments lately, there seems to be lots of cultivation going on and Peters grass cutting of the road edges and main paths has made a great difference. Many thanks too, to all those who have strimmed or wood chipped the paths around their plots. It is much easier when we are trying to let plots or doing inspections if we can clearly see boundaries. It's part of your tenancy agreement that each plot holder should maintain the paths surrounding their plot and here I will put in a plea from Peter – carpet on the roads and paths makes strimming the edges difficult as carpet threads get caught around the strimmer spool. If you use carpet please select one that does not unravel when you pull a thread or even better woodchip it or leave it as grass. It looks better and it's more wildlife friendly.



SUMMER SHOW & SOCIAL

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

This year we are hoping to expand the annual produce show to make it more of a social event. We will have the traditional show with the classes such as longest bean, best dahlia, as well as cakes and preserves and novelty



classes such as the longest piece of bindweed root. There



could be a "paint a plant pot" competition for the kids. Perhaps we could have some craft and individual stalls such as the one Anita had at the plant sale. If you are an artist or photographer you might like to exhibit your work.

If you have particular charity you would like to fund raise for perhaps you would like to have a table with items for sale or a tombola or maybe some old fashioned games such as skittles/hoopla/horseshoes. Please come and talk to us if you have any ideas about this.

I hope that we can build on the enthusiasm and goodwill of the plant sale and make it more of a village fair with items for sale as well as exhibits and games. Alongside this we could have a communal picnic or barbeque. **Please give the committee your feedback and leave the date free.**

FINALLY

Thanks to all for working so hard on your plots this year.

The plot inspections have just been done and there were only 12 plots identified initially as needing more attention. Hopefully we won't be struck by a deluge as we were last year in June so this year all our efforts won't be wasted.

The committee will continue to work really hard on your behalf to get the best deal we can (sounds like Brexit...) out of Idverde but it depends on the contract signed by LBM. Meanwhile we can all help to minimise the waste issue by composting all of our green waste on our plots and not bringing any waste from home to put on the waste bays.

Happy gardening!

Best wishes

Jadzia

MAGA Chair

PUZZLE

it was like
a giant puzzle
jig-saw puzzle
a three -dee puzzle
in a store
on the allotment
the volunteers
were faced with
piles of aluminium
tubing rods poles
piles of nuts and bolts
fixings lots of fixings
tools various tools
ladders challenging
and canvas
piles of canvas
but the braves souls
after tea, biscuits
and chats
they set to



amazingly enough
at the end
of all their
herculean efforts
there stood the
magnificent marquee
arisen yes arisen
and all were amazed
and rejoiced
and the A.G.M.
could now take place
cheerily yet again

pmcmanus
s136

ALLOTMENT

I know that
you are
a keen
gardener
but
acting out
Adam and Eve
realistically
historically
authentically
on our plot
makes you
look silly
just wearing
that fig leaf
and
if you
expect me
to gad about
all starkers
it's not on
especially in
this freezing
snowy weather
summer

maybe

pmcmanus
s075

