



## LATE SUMMER NEWSLETTER No 13 - September 2012

Dear Members,

The weather for our BBQ on Sunday 9 September was great (unlike last year when it was rained off) and about 35 adults and children enjoyed the convivial atmosphere and the freshly cooked food. Several members brought wine, pastas and salads to be shared by all, and Pascal Boulvais had made about 20 delicious apple and fruit desserts which were consumed with gusto and much appreciation.

Our inaugural light hearted competitions were also a success, particularly the cake competition which had 8 entries. Joan McConn (a well-known choc/cake-aholic) judged the latter them on the basis of "which one would I like to taste again immediately?" and after much deliberation voted the courgette and walnut cake baked by young Amy Hughes as the winner.

Ruth Green won the weird vegetable group with a very rude tomato; Gordon Bell the largest pumpkin; and Robin Noble and sons the tallest sunflower.

After the prizes had been handed out all the cakes were eagerly devoured, so that by the time we finished there was very little left! Everyone thought the competitions were a great idea and should be repeated again next year – and Joan Coy has already volunteered to be the cake judge.

Now to other matters:

The committee has decided to keep the allotment rental per plot at the same rate of £31.00, which keeps it much cheaper than the Quadron managed sites. Rebecca will soon start sending out invoices and prompt payment by cheque or direct bank credit would be greatly appreciated.

**Work party dates have been set for two weekends in October – 13/14th and 20/21th with the necessary work being carried out between 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm on each day.**

A schedule of activities for the lower and upper field will be prepared and sent out prior to the workdays so that members can see what needs to be done to maintain and improve our allotments. Remember that these are your allotments and some effort by all members is essential for them to be a success. If you have not helped in any of the previous work parties the committee I hope that you will be able to do so in these ones.

**The annual bonfire party will be held on Friday 2nd November at 6.30pm** on the lower field to coincide with the Kingston Council firework display at Kingsmeadow. Mulled wine and soft drinks will be provided and there will also be a charcoal BBQ. Please bring your own fireworks to set off, and your own food, marshmallows etc. to cook, as well as any alcoholic drinks you might like to consume.

There will be a designated area on the lower field where you can pile up any unwanted timber beforehand, and the bonfire will be built just before the bonfire party takes place. Please note that timber with plastics/formica attached cannot be burnt.

The manure scheme will recommence in October (after the first work party weekend) and if you are already part of the scheme or wish to join it please pay the annual £5 subscription for manure directly to me at 9 Grove Lane or at the allotments. The scheme runs from October of each year and entitles you to 30/40 barrows of manure annually. Also, please help yourselves **freely** to as much wood chippings as you need for paths, mulching etc.

Remember that you will find copies of the latest NASLG magazine `Allotment and Leisure Gardener` to borrow in the two communal sheds and the composting toilet. There are many useful and interesting articles in the magazine.

I hope to see you all at the work parties and at the bonfire party.

Karol Smal  
Chairman

On behalf of the AGAA Committee