

# CAPEL ST MARY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION — SUMMER NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017



*“Growing for 40 years”*

\*\*\* THE 2017 BBQ—40TH  
ANNIVERSARY \*\*\*

Come and join us in and around the Marquee on the Allotments site on Saturday 29th July for our annual BBQ. Join in the games and pig racing or just sit back and relax. Tickets at £8.50 each are available from The Hut, Graham in-fo@capelallotments.co.uk

Numbers are limited so do book early.



As the Association is now 40 years old, this year's



menu includes: 70's style:- prawn salad, black forest gateaux, and soup in a basket. Pan fried and foil wrapped fish plus burgers, bangers and Mexican bean vegetarian burgers alongside salads, more puds, cheese board and tea/coffee. There is a sample menu on our web site.

*Graham Whybrow*

## The 2018 Seed Scheme

Following Ian Fraser's resignation from the Committee (see the Chairman's report below), **Phil Hickley** will be taking on Ian's excellent work with the seed scheme. Watch out for news later on in the summer, but this year we expect to be able to offer members the ability to order their seeds through a dedicated and secure online facility (while retaining some sort of option for a traditional paper-based ordering facility).

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## \*\*\*\*\* CHAIRMAN'S REPORT \*\*\*\*\*

The annual BBQ is on Saturday 29 July this year and full details can be found above. Dennis, our site manager, continues to keep the allotment site up to a high standard and with the hard



work of you the plot holders this results in an overall site to be proud of.

In association with the Suffolk Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (SSALG) we created a display stand at the Suffolk Show and won a 'Large' Gold Medal and Best in Show Cup. Many congratulations, especially to Graham and Dennis and all who assisted with the exhibit which involved filling two raised beds and a selection of painted

wheelbarrows. This was our last year so a great result to go out on.

Our well attended AGM in April followed a very successful work-in. We are celebrating our 40th year as an Association and four of the original plot holders together with their wives were presented with wine and flowers by our President Steve Baker. Karen Kenny, the National Allotment Society President, also offered her congratulations.

A presentation was made to Ian Fraser in recognition of 37 years service on the Committee and 33 years running



the seed scheme.

We welcome onto the Committee Martyn Dowsett who takes over the IT duties and Martyn has already developed a streamlined computer system to help run the annual show.

**Please make a note of the date of the 2017 Flower and Produce Show, to be held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd September at the village hall. This will be our 40th annual show.**

If anyone has suggestions relating to the site or activities of the Allotments Association, please contact any Committee member.

*Charles Heath*

## WILDLIFE AREA AND VISITS

The wildlife area continues to flourish and the recent rain has refilled the pond. The area is being extended to include the mixed planting border which is at present outside the fence. Various plants and shrubs that attract butterflies and other insects grow here. We aim to manage the area while maintaining a natural atmosphere to encourage wildlife. This is achieved by a group working there during both work ins to keep the area cared for and to control invasive



weeds. The pond has a surprising number of creatures which have somehow made their way there; The blue and red damselflies are now flying around

and the information boards are proving very useful in identifying insects and other wild life. If you haven't been recently, please go and take a look. For safety reasons, children must always be accompanied by an adult.

We have two visits—possibly a third—booked for this summer and this year we have new educational equipment for visitors to use including nets (pond, butterfly and bugs), specimen containers, reference books plus frog and butterfly lifecycle models. Visits to the site and wildlife area are welcomed; details of how to set up a visit are on the website: [capel-allotments.co.uk](http://capel-allotments.co.uk)

*Philippa Brandon*

## ALLOTMENT SITE

A big thanks to everyone who attended the Spring work-in to make it such a successful day. A considerable number of important tasks were completed which helps with day to day maintenance and also to control costs. We have a reputation of being one of the best sites in Suffolk and we want to keep it that way.

Always take care when **driving** on site (5mph max please) especially when reversing and parking on grassed areas—**young children** are often on site. Also, please make sure **dogs** are kept on a lead and under control. A cultivator and rotovator are available for hire—please book with me. Mushroom compost is available from the Capel Mushroom Farm but please contact them direct to arrange delivery. Horse manure is sometimes available (free) on the site but be sure to be quick. Always remember to lock the main vehicle gate—there have been recent occasions when this has not been the case and keep

all tools safe and secure; occasionally children have removed them to the wooded area. Always use water sparingly and remember to turn taps off after use. Rain water butts (by the Hut) are also for general use.

Please compost as much as you can; most people should be able to compost 90% of their waste and only woody, waste material (and perennial weeds) are suitable for burning on the bonfire. All 93 plots (and 24 poly tunnel plots) are currently rented out. If you know you will be giving up your plot, please contact me.

Any scrap metal from your allotment can be placed on the scrap heap to the left of the toilet although you should recycle appropriate material in the blue recycling bin on the site. The black bin is for any other waste items which cannot be composted, recycled or burnt.

*Dennis Smith*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHOW SECRETARY, WENDY RUSSELL

This year's Flower and Produce Show (2nd and 3rd September) is not too far away now so please start to think about what you are entering and start to prepare - whether it's what you are going to grow and show, make, cook or photograph. Photographic topics for 2017 include 'a great British holiday', 'transport through time', 'bird life', 'life in Suffolk in the 21st Century' and 'a photo of your choice'. Flower and Foliage arrangements will be different and one of the classes in this section (91) has been adapted to reflect 40 years of Allotment Association Shows. Reflecting our own 40 years, cookery class 101 will allow you to decorate cupcakes in celebration!

Last year the children's entries were down on previous years so please encourage youngsters to enter—remember this is a family show for all to enter and enjoy. Recipes for classes 98-100 are available from our website or myself. Your entries will need to be completed on-line (new this year) or delivered to me on Tuesday 29th August.

See more details in the show schedule or via: [www.capelallotments.co.uk/contactus/show-entry-form](http://www.capelallotments.co.uk/contactus/show-entry-form)

See you at the show.

*Wendy Russell*



## OTHER NEWS

### Bonfires



Please note that the bonfire is now closed until Friday 4th August. Do keep waste material on your plot.

### The Hut

The Hut is now open only from 10 to 12 noon on Saturdays until the end of October. Remember we also stock salt, charcoal, bird food, floristry oasis & trays, ground cover and gloves

