



FORGE FARM ALLOTMENTS

November 2017

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE CHANGES AND UPDATES

FULL COMMITTEE MEMBER'S LIST:

At the AGM held on Saturday 11th November, the following Committee changes took place:

- Secretary : Lisa Fryer (Plot 19)
- Chairman : Robbie Sandison (Plots 27/28A)
- Treasurer : Wendy Burnett (Plot 23)
- Website Developer : Kevin Wigley (Plots 22A/24)

Thank you to **Pauline Isaac** who has, after a number of years' service, decided to stand down.

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| Lisa Fryer | Secretary |
| Robbie Sandison | Chairman |
| Wendy Burnett | Treasurer |
| Lynne Smith | Plot Letting |
| Douglas Wain-Heapy | Committee Member |
| Frank Mulrennan | Committee Member |
| Bill Curtis | Committee Member |
| Kyn Leech | Committee Member |
| Gary James | Committee Member |
| Steven Monks | Committee Member |
| Kevin Wigley | Committee Member |

Chairman: Robbie Sandison

Robbie has been a Plot Holder, with his wife, Sue, for about two years. Proud recipient of Best Newcomer at this year's show (looking forward to next year!).

If you would like to contact Robbie, feel free to pop over to Plot 27 or drop him an email at :

ForgeFarmAllotments@gmx.co.uk

Secretary: Lisa Fryer

Lisa became a plot holder 4 years ago and loved it so much she expanded to a full plot 2 years later. Much to her surprise she won best plot this year!



USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PLOT HOLDERS!!

➤ Site Security

1. After a number of incidents at other allotments throughout Birmingham, we would like to impress upon everyone, the importance of ensuring the gates are correctly secured after entering or leaving the site.
2. We have heard of a number of car-jackings in the area, so we would advise you NOT to leave your cars running or keys in the ignition.
3. It has been reported that some items have gone missing on the site. Please be vigilant and report to the police on 101 in the first instance and notify a member of the committee.

➤ Clearing Plots for Winter

1. It's good to see how many plot holders are tidying up their plots in readiness for winter.
2. Please take great care when disposing of any glass or plastic waste responsibly. This is not just hazardous to people but also wildlife – which the allotment is actively trying to encourage.

➤ Green Dump Area

1. Please remember that the green dump area is for the recycling of green waste only. There is adequate signage and a roped off path to guide you to the designated areas. *(Not all allotment sites have the ability to compost in this way and often individual plot holders are responsible for the removal of their waste.)*
2. If anyone has woody branches, please put them by the fence alongside the A38 as we are trying to deter unwanted access.
3. Metal, Glass, Plastic and non-biodegradable waste should be removed from the site and, preferably recycled, by individual plot holders. Your compliance with these guidelines will ensure that we are all able to take advantage of this facility for years to come. (Below examples including empty tin of Baked Beans (centre pic))



Wildlife!



We have purchased a Hedgehog house for the family of hedgehogs recently uncovered.

Plot Letting

If anybody would like a plot or knows anybody else who would like to take on a plot please feel free to see LYNNE when she is on the allotment - plot 44, or get in touch via the website.

Please think before you take on a plot especially if you have no help. Taking on a plot needs a lot of time, not just a Friday night like Monty Don's programme (he has a lot of help behind the scenes)

A plot is for 52 weeks a year not just the summer, weeds keep growing and need tending.

If you feel you would like to join the allotment community there is a lot of advice available from allotment holders. Get in touch and start digging!!!



➤ Website

1. The overhaul of the website is coming on leaps and bounds. (<http://forgefarmallotments.weebly.com>) It is our intention for it to become a source of information for plot holders, with details of upcoming events, as well as being a welcoming place for local people who are looking for somewhere to grow their own vegetables. Any input is always welcome so feel free to send pictures of your plots or local wildlife to a member of the committee and it can be included. Newsletters will be included in the 'Notice Board's' drop down menu as they are issued.

➤ Health and Safety Notes

1. All water butts should be covered over winter. This includes those by the green shed and behind the meeting room.
2. Please be aware that the Council are going to remove some dead trees on the site.
3. Could everyone please try and keep the pathways between allotments clear of trip hazards.

➤ AOB

1. It is our intention to produce a Newsletter as each season approaches.
2. Please keep an eye on the website for relevant updated information.
3. Committee Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Notice Board as well as on the Website.
4. If you would like to recommend websites or YouTube vloggers, please let us know so we can share these through the website.
5. Please feel free to come forward with suggestions or ideas which you feel may enhance or improve our Allotment!



Bonfires

These are only permitted during the months of March and November for green allotment waste/diseased vegetation. Please refer to the Rule Book or ask a member of the Committee for further clarification.

Path chippings and leaf mulch

Feel free to help yourselves to both the leaf mulch and the path chippings. These are located by the black shed at the bottom of the road, by the leaf mould, and also by the green shed.