



**EARLS COLNE
ALLOTMENT
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2010**

So much has happened since our July Newsletter! After enjoying a bumper summer harvest, most plot holders are now starting to put their plots in order, ready for autumn digging / manuring . . .

OFFICIAL OPENING EVENT – SATURDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2010

Our Opening Event proved to be a very successful occasion. The car-park served us well as a “festival site” for the day. Everyone enjoyed beautifully cooked BBQ food (thanks to our cooks) and salads (thanks to our salad makers) and topped it off with Farmer Bill's Ice-cream. John Bendall made a lovely opening address, then John Giles formally thanked the Hobbs family for their generosity and presented them with a Golden Elm, Flagpole Cherry and an engraved slate bench, which was paid for with the funds raised by the Beetle Drive and Adopt a Tree Scheme.

Competition Results:

Best Scarecrow Competition – Sophie Gugacz and Daniel Wood plot 56 for “Mr McGregor”.

Biggest Pumpkin Competition – Debbie Root plot 66 with a whopping 45½” girth!

Tallest Sunflower Competition – Sophie Gugacz and Daniel Wood plot 56 a staggering 93” tall.

Poster Competition – pre-school won by Charlie Lunn and juniors won by Adam and Dylan Peakall.

Look out for photos from the day on the website. Thank you to so many plot holders for attending and making the day so enjoyable. We received really positive feedback from our Parish councillors and the Hobbs family for what we've managed to achieve so far this year.

ON-GOING SITE MAINTENANCE

-€ **AUTUMN MAINTENANCE WEEKEND** - 27th/28th November – we need as many plot holders as possible to help us with some autumnal tasks – tidying-up the site, bulb and hedge planting. There will be 3 shifts – Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning. One of our neighbours in Newhouse Road has kindly offered the use of their barn so we will set up a canteen, for hot drinks, home-made soup and bread after each shift. Please let Tracey know which of the shifts you are available for as we need to confirm numbers. Thanks those who have volunteered so far.

-€ We have negotiated and agreed with the local probation service that a supervised work party will provide on-going site maintenance on a weekly basis - hopefully starting sometime in November.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

- € You may be aware of a couple of changes within the committee.
- € David McGlasham has chosen to step down as our Chairman and we'd like to thank him for his hard-work and commitment in getting the allotments up and running. In the meantime John Giles has stepped into the breach. As you may be aware at our opening day the Hobbs Family presented ECAA with the Hobbs Perpetual Shield which is a trophy to be awarded annually to the person who has contributed the most throughout the year. For 2010 the committee decided that David was the rightful recipient of this award.
- € Judith Wilkins has now handed over the responsibility of treasurer to Jean Prynn, thanks to Judith for managing our accounts during the busy set-up period and good luck to Jean in her new role.

2011 PLANNING

- € The committee have applied for a grant "Green Hearts Campaign" for £5000 to cover pathways, hedging, bulbs and machinery. We will hear in November if our application has been successful.
- € Tenancies are due for renewal on 1st January 2011. Reminders and documentation will be sent out before the end of the year. If you have already decided that you do not want to keep your plot, please advise us as soon as possible, so that people on the waiting list can be contacted immediately.
- € The Parish Council now have received a quote from Anglian Water. This far exceeds our envisaged costs. This will be an agenda point at the AGM but our expectation is that this is likely to have an impact on our membership fees.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- € Our AGM will be held towards the end of January – date to be confirmed before Christmas. Agenda to be sent out in advance.
- € Key objectives of the AGM will be:
 - To elect / re-elect committee members.
 - Sign-off our ECAA constitution.
 - Presentation of Chairman and Treasurer's reports.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman	John Giles	Tel 223834	miloslilo@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Jean Prynn	Tel 221586	jean.prynn@oldkh.com
Secretary	Tracey Lunn	Tel 222730	tracey-lunn@hotmail.co.uk
Find us on the website			http://www.earlscolne.org/index.cfm/id/220