**Spring has sprung!**

There is frogspawn in every pond and cheery spring bulbs brightening the plots. TBA really is a beautiful place to be just now.

We’re going to celebrate that at the next communal days with a bit of festive fun.

We’re organising a Spring treasure hunt for the weekend of **14th - 15th April.** Kids (and accompanying adults!) can join in the hunt between 11am-2pm each day, with rewards of chocolate and other goodies.

It will also be a good opportunity to carry on with the communal tasks on site. We can clear back the dead growth in the wildlife garden (watching out for any baby frogs), remove the final remnants of the fallen tree and fix the old notice board.

See you all then!

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**Full house**

Our final empty plot, Number 20, has been let. A very warm welcome to the new plot holders: Pauline, David and baby Harrison.

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**Trinley tips**

In what we hope will be a long-running series of helpful hints, we are proud to present Trinley Tip #1, courtesy of Tommy on Plot 8:

To get the best results from your broad beans, don’t put them straight into cold soil, chit them first. Take a sealable plastic food bag, fill it with moist compost and your seeds, seal it up, and put it somewhere warm, like the top of a kitchen cupboard, to get things going. Once you spot a chitted seed, pot it up and you’re off!

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**Spuds-we-like!**

Glasgow’s first Potato Day was a huge success. Lots of people attended, helping GAF make enough money to support its programme of talks and demonstration allotment at Bellahouston’s Walled Garden.

Jan has a small amount of most tubers left, so if you’ve still to get potatoes, check out the varieties on the notice board or online and email her at jan.lynne2303@gmail.com

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**Scotland’s allotments**

Some of you may remember Carlo d’Alessandro, who visited Trinley Brae and other sites across the country last year with his camera.

His photographic exhibition is on now at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, running until the 15th April 2012. If you can’t get there in person, his photos can also be viewed at: [http://www.carlodalessandro.com](http://www.carlodalessandro.com)

See if you can spot any Trinley faces!

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**Paths and boundaries**

Walking around the site, there are a number of paths between plots in need of some tender, loving care - be it a trim, a tidy, or even some definition!

We’re all responsible for ensuring the paths adjoining our plots are tidy, weed and hazard free. Could everyone please work with their neighbours over the course of this year to maintain these paths?

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**GAF talks**

The second in Glasgow Allotments Forum (GAF) series of talks will take place Tuesday, 27th March, 7pm-9pm. It’s being held at Mid Hall, Woodside Halls, near St. George’s Cross.

This time horticulturalist Billy Kenny will focus on carrots, onions & related veggies. Tea & Coffee will be available. [http://tiny.cc/GAFdiary](http://tiny.cc/GAFdiary)

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**Manure, bark and POD**

We’re hoping to arrange a second delivery of manure before Easter, so please help yourselves to what’s already there.

It would be helpful if everyone could load up their barrows from the end nearest the top gate first, and also clear away any resulting spillages from the path.

We can then make room for deliveries of bark chippings or POD compost.
Scarecrow competition

Matilda (Plot 28) has ploughed a lonely furrow the past two years as the only scarecrow on the plots. It’s been suggested she might like some company. So we are throwing down the gardening glove of challenge and launching a Scarecrow competition. If you fancy building, knitting or growing your own, please join in! The only rule is that standing still on your plot for periods of time won’t count as an entry (sorry Lil). Details of voting arrangements will be announced later.

Enjoying and being part of Trinley Brae

Trinley Brae is a special place. A wee haven in the middle of city bustle. Even people who come for just a short visit think so. As members of the Trinley Brae Allotment Association, we each have the privilege of being able to come to this place, to enjoy our plots, to share in the ups and downs of allotment gardening (and countless restorative cups of tea), to watch the cycle of life as it unfolds, season by season.

However, we each also share equal responsibility for the care, maintenance and security of this place. Our Constitution and General Rules and Regulations are in place to benefit all members of the Association.

These rules are not meant to stop us enjoying this place, their purpose is to help maintain a safe and pleasant environment for everyone.

As we now have a number of small children and four-legged friends on site, could we all be mindful of others and please:

- only enter other plots when invited;
- keep dogs under control at all times while on site - either keep them on your own plot, or put them on a lead if walking through the rest of the site;
- ensure children are supervised, particularly near the wildlife pond.

Committee 2012

Tommy Sprott, Plot 8 (Chair)  
Sarah Jones, Plot 5 (Secretary)  
Mark Stilges, Plot 9  
David Stewart, Plot 25  
Richard Fedorko, Plot 5  
Heather Walker, Plot 4 (Treasurer)

Dates of committee meetings will be advised in advance, so if you have any suggestions or issues you’d like to raise, please let us know.

Tommy can be contacted by email at: tbachair@hotmail.co.uk  
Sarah can be contacted by email at: tbasecretary@hotmail.co.uk

Polytunnel partnership proposal

We mentioned in February that we are looking at different options to replace our broken polytunnel, and were considering applying for a Local Area Committee grant as a source of funds.

The Council is going to reinstate its meadow planting on the Brae this year and the Banner Residents Association has been speaking with them about ways to further increase biodiversity in the area. The Association has now approached us with a view to forming a partnership on growing and planting and submitting a joint grant application.

The proposal is that we could complement Council planting with further wildlife planting at Trinley Brae, but also in Banner Square. We would seek funds for a new polytunnel in order to support our own wildlife areas, but also to grow plants to give out at the Banner Road Fun Day. We could also provide advice to the Residents on what to grow in their planters.

There would be a lot of detail to work out before submitting an application, but first we’d like to hear your initial views on the proposal and whether you would be happy for us to proceed.

En suite on site

With the delivery of the new composting toilet and its housing earlier this month, we are a step nearer having on site toilet facilities!

Its exact position on the communal plot has to be agreed with the Council and the Contractors, and will be subject to consideration of technical issues such as degree of slope.

We’ve indicated that our preferred spot would be the top left hand side of the plot.

Site security

As well as the big gap in the fence at the back of Plot 3 (soon to be bigger once the Council removes the rest of the tree), it’s been noticed that there is a potential weakness at the lower gate. It’s possible for people to climb over the top of the gate and jump over.

Tommy has come up with a couple of suggestions to put to our Allotments Officer, to counter this. In the meantime, if you become aware of any other chinks in the security fence, please let one of the Committee know.

Contributions

Do you have any news, tips, website recommendations, articles, successes or recipes you would like to share with other Association members? If so, please get in touch and they’ll be included in future Newsletters.

TBA Newsletter March 2012