



One Tree Hill Allotment Society Newsletter

Autumn 2009: AGM reminder ... Police patrols ... Open Day ... Court case update ...

Current Committee!

Chair: **Tony**
Vice Chair: **Ian**
Joint Secretary:
**Catherine +
Emma**
Treasurer: **Liz**
Membership Sec:
Carole
Social Sec: **Lucia**
Plot Inspections
Coordinator:
Sarah
Work Days:
Paul
Newsletter:
Fran
Green advisor:
Ben

**Extra volunteers
always welcome!**

Attention!

**Bonfire and
fireworks on
Sunday 8
November, 4 till 7
Fire lit at 5 pm but
wood needed!**

**Please remember
that the car park
gates are now
being locked at
7pm, often before!
So don't get stuck
in!**

**Membership list
still closed!**

Harvest time! Nights drawing in!

Big reminder for the AGM which is being held on Thursday 24 September at 8pm at the Ackroyd Centre. Please try and attend as it's our one big meeting for the year and a great opportunity to meet other plotters who you may not normally meet if they work on a different part of the site or at a different time. The more the merrier!

Following spates of theft and vandalism, Tony and I attended the **Peckham Rye ward police** panel meeting in June. This was pretty helpful and after outlining our difficulties, the police agreed to make our site one of their targets. The result of this is that the Peckham Rye community police have a key to our site and make regular patrols, often later in the evening. They attended the Open Day and met more plotters. Another avenue was approaching Southwark Council to discuss breaches in the fencing. Interestingly, they have had no response from the Council at the time of writing. Thoughts on how to pursue this are always welcome. One avenue is to meet with our local councillors and this is planned. A councillor usually attends the police panel meetings so there may be an opportunity to raise issues at the September meeting with one. However, we do need to monitor our own site as much as possible: Apples have gone missing already this season – if you see anyone you don't recognise on someone else's plot, then please go and talk to them. No Have-a-go-Heroes! But often

when people are challenged, they don't return. And please, if you have a theft or any damage, please tell Tony who is logging incidents. Only then, can we give the police a full picture.

The **Open Day** was a great success and there were many favourable comments on the bee hives, the wildlife and flowers, the plant sale and the peaceful and tranquil atmosphere of our site. Lovely to hear such appreciation. The money which was made from the raffle, plant sales, donations and refreshments will be put towards a specific project. Any ideas? Could be for bat boxes, wildlife hedges, butterfly area, new community shelter bring your ideas to the AGM. So a big thanks to Lucia for spearheading the Open Day event and to all those who showed people round, made cakes and were there!

Thanks also to Ian for organising the **compost and manure** order and delivery. It was much appreciated by those who took advantage of it!

The court case regarding the eco shelter at the bottom of the site was held in June. Merlyn Peter's claim was dismissed by the judge and our counter claim was upheld. OTHAS is now owed £1899 by Merlyn. This was due to be paid by 18 July 09 and no payment or communication has been received. Our engineer's report concluded the shelter was not safe and it has now been taken down. Further discussion about this issue at the AGM.