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## **ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER NO. 3** **SPRING 2016**

This is now our third Newsletter to let everyone know the up to date position relating to the two separate allotment fields. We will produce a further Newsletter later in the year. As always we would welcome any responses and further input from allotment holders.

### **ONGOING/COMPLETED WORKS**

The improvement works to both the Stevens Street and Northampton Road allotment sites are almost complete with just a few areas to finish off. We intend to continue this process with the provision of new site signage and Notice Boards.

The new water supplies to both the Northampton Road and Stevens Street sites have now been completed.

A new gate has been erected at the Northampton Road allotment site. The gate also has a pedestrian access way at the side. **The Charity would request that allotment holders keep the gate closed at all times to deter unwanted visitors.**

As mentioned in our earlier newsletter, the Charity hopes that a growing level of communal pride on both sites will encourage every single allotment holder to not only ensure that their own plot is kept productive and tidy but will also prompt allotment holders to help to maintain common areas by, for example, keeping down weeds and grass on the plot edges and adjacent path edges.

The work to the Walnut Tree at the Stevens Street site has now been completed.

The new fence to close off the duck pond has now been completed to address any issues of personal safety. Safety Signs will be put on the fence surrounding the duck pond in due course.

### **DRAINAGE WORKS AND PATHWAY TO HEARTH STREET**

The drainage works to the Stevens Street site has now been completed. Additional drainage works to resolve the appearance of a spring and resolve flooding to another plot have also been completed. The Community Payback Group will complete the works to the track near to the duck pond end June/beginning of July.

### **HEDGES, BANKS AND GRASS AREAS – NORTHAMPTON ROAD**

Contractors have now been instructed to regularly trim the roadside hedge and flail the banks and the grassed area; once again may we stress the importance of not depositing any waste materials or vegetation on the banks as this provides us with real problems with the contractors who then experience damage to their machinery.



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### **SKIPS**

During the course of this year we have again arranged for several skips to be on site at Stevens Street.

However, despite large Notices on the sides of the skips people are still putting in items which are not allowed. This causes the Charity considerable difficulty and extra costs with the skip company refusing to take the skip and charging extra for the removal. If this continues, the Charity will have to consider stopping the delivery of skips altogether. We are also aware of people who are not allotment holders also using the skips and would be grateful for any additional information as and when this occurs.

We will be arranging for a couple of skips to be on site at the Northampton Road allotment site for a limit time. This is primarily for our contractors to remove the remaining debris at the top of the site. However, if there is space available, the allotment holders are welcome to use the skips. Please read the Notices on the sides of the skip on the items allowed to be put into it.

### **COMMUNITY GROUP**



The Community Payback Team (*"Community Pay Back Scheme"*, whereby people ordered to undertake community service have been carrying out works whereby each Sunday supervised teams have been onsite clearing rubbish, strimming overgrown areas and general tidying works) continue to help with works at both allotment sites. The group have been spending some time at our Northampton Road Allotment Site preparing five raised bed areas for people with mobility issues. See our website [www.mhbcharity.co.uk](http://www.mhbcharity.co.uk) for further information. We have let two of the beds and have three available. Please contact the Charity office if you would like any additional information or know of anyone who may be interested in one of the available raised beds.

### **ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

We are working towards forming Allotment Associations at both allotment fields to take total control over the management and activities of the two separate allotment fields via block Leases direct from the Charity.

### **SITE SECURITY**

We would continue to encourage all allotment holders to ensure that the entrance gates to the allotment fields are kept closed at all times so as to discourage trespass and unauthorised access. Anyone wishing to gain access to the Northampton Road allotment field in a high vehicle should contact the Charity office whereupon you will be provided with a key to open the barrier subject to the key being returned the same day.

### **BONFIRES**

On both sites there has been a history of some nuisance being caused by bonfires and we would specifically draw your attention to the terms and conditions set out within your Allotment Agreements to the effect that bonfires should only be used as a last resort and only when the wind direction is such that smoke will not be causing a nuisance to nearby businesses or residents and subject to the bonfires being fully extinguished before leaving the site of an evening.



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**OPEN DAY AT STEVENS STREET ALLOTMENT SITE – SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016 – 10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

Working with the “Taste Creations of Harbourough” mobile food van, the Charity is organising an open day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at our Stevens Street allotment field.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July Taste Creations of Harbourough will be providing a small BBQ for allotment holders, friends and families (*please visit the mobile van on either Saturdays or Sundays prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> July for further information on the BBQ*). Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July will be the main event. A detailed itinerary of events, times etc. will be emailed/posted nearer to the event.

If anyone wishes to volunteer their services in setting up tables, gazebos, signage etc. during this time please get in touch with the Charity Secretary Jan Edwards for further information.

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

Finally, in the unlikely event there are any disputes between allotment holders, please try and initially resolve this between yourselves. However, if this fails please advise the relevant allotment holder that you will contact the Charity office regarding your concerns, whereupon we will be pleased to try and assist. Our contact details are as above and the Charity office is manned five days a week.

As part of our ongoing management of the allotment fields, we will be carrying out regular inspections in the hope that we can quickly identify any problematic areas or issues.

**We hope that you all enjoy an excellent season and look forward to working with you all in order to continue to improve the amenity and productivity of the allotment fields.**

This Newsletter has been sent to all allotment holders who have registered an email address with us. If you have not received electronic copy please contact the Charity Office and we will make arrangements to add you to the Distribution List for future newsletters and other general information.

Please keep the Charity informed of any changes to your emails, telephone numbers, addresses etc. in order to ensure our records are kept up to date.

The Charity Office  
7 June 2016