

SAAGS

South Acton Allotment Growers Society

SAAGS has a largely new committee, which was formed in April this year (see page 2). Two committee meetings so far this year have produced ideas, information and initiatives which I would like to share with all the plotholders. This newsletter has been put together to do just this.

Christopher Stobart

Chairman, SAAGS

Workday, October 27

We have another workday organized, to start at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday October 27. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come along and contribute to keeping the common parts and facilities of both allotment areas in good shape. All plotholders benefit from tidy and well maintained fences, hedges, gates, paths and compost heaps, so it is only fair that all should play their part in keeping them tidy and well maintained.

Some useful tasks have already been identified, including:

- Cutting hedges on the Western area
- Repairing and strengthening one of the gates into the Eastern area
- Collecting and burning rubbish

If you have any suggestions about jobs that need doing on the common areas, please pass them on to Jo Oates (at jo@jonutrition.co.uk) or to me (at cgstobart@googlemail.com). We are keen to organize any necessary jobs on the Eastern

Forthcoming Events:

October 27, 2013:

Workday at the South Acton allotments

November 5, 2013:

Bonfire Night at the allotments

November 25, 2013:

SAAGS Christmas dinner

January 22, 2014:

Annual General Meeting of SAAGS

allotment area, as well as on the larger Western site, so please tell us what you think needs attention.

We plan to retire to The Swan for some refreshment at the end of the workday, so do come along and help.

More dates for your diaries

The **SAAGS Christmas dinner** is planned for Monday November 25, at 7.30 p.m. in The Bollo (at the corner of Bollo Lane and Montgomery Road). Everyone (plus husbands, wives and partners) is welcome. Jo has made the booking already. Please let her know if you will be attending.

The **Annual General Meeting of SAAGS** will take place on January 22, 2013, in the evening (the exact time will be conformed later). It will be held in 30 Acton Lane, W4 (which is in the centre of the stretch of Acton Lane between Cunnington Street and Fairlawn Avenue). All SAAGS members are welcome and are encouraged to attend. This is your chance to put your ideas and comments to the Committee and to find out what SAAGs can do to help the allotment gardeners as a whole.

We are also planning a **bonfire night** on Tuesday November 5 for ploholders and their families. Jo again is organizing this. Please see her recent email and let her know if you would like to join in.

Construction works on the South Acton Estate

You are probably aware that the next phase of the re-development of the South Acton Estate will involve the destruction of Woolf Court and Wodehouse Court, the two empty blocks of flats close to the Western allotment area.

Wodehouse Court will be replaced by a ten storey building, and Woolf Court by an L-shaped eight storey building. Together, they will form three sides of a square. The fourth side will be open and will face onto our Western allotment area. The space within these structures will be a raised, open

The SAAGS Committee:

Christopher Stobart,
Chairman

Bill Sargent, Secretary

Ivan Hodgkinson, Treasurer

Donna McCormally, Site
Manager

Joanna Oates, Social
Activities

Liz Dendy

communal area, with an underground car park beneath it.

You can see an outline and sketches of the plans on:

<http://www.yoursouthacton.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Consultation-Boards-Phase-3.1.pdf>

The picture below gives an idea of what the new blocks would look like. The Western allotment site is on the foreground.



A detailed planning application for this phase of work has not yet been published. The application should be made public in the near future. At that point, we will have a chance to put our views to Ealing Council, as individuals and as a Society.

The plan has several important implications for our allotments:

- The ten story building will take sunlight away from several plots along the northern edge of the Western site.
- Palmerston Road will ultimately be closed to traffic (apart from ambulances, fire services etc.). This means that we will not be able to park beside the Palmerston Road gate if we want to deliver any heavy materials to our plots.

- Stanley Road is threatened with total closure during the construction period; even after construction, the current plan allows for no free parking at that gate, so again we would have no convenient way of bringing any heavy materials to the site, and potentially we would have no access for vehicles to this end of the site while the new blocks are being built.

The SAAGS committee's view is that we should object to these three aspects of the plan, as soon as the application is published. Bill Sargent has followed the development process closely, and is well informed on how, when and where objections can be lodged, in an attempt to protect our interests. He will alert us when the planning application is open to the public for comments.

I am sure the Committee will put forward a collective opinion, but individual ploholders are encouraged to make their own views known to the Council as well.

Wanted: A Superdug volunteer!

For many years, Liz Dendy has our collective order for Superdug compost. By pooling our requirements, we are able to get a handsome discount on the price: one bag costs £19.75 but if we can order 20 bags, the price comes down to £12 each.

Liz now wants to hand over to someone else the task of collecting our orders, organizing delivery and collecting payments. I have agreed to do the job on an interim basis, to take it off Liz's shoulders, but I would like to find a volunteer from among the ploholders who will take it on for at least a couple of years.

Who would like to volunteer? Please contact me on cgstobart@googlemail.com.

Happy gardening to all!

Christopher Stobart