

Craven Hill & Whitehawk Hill Allotments Society
Meeting Sunday, 5 March 2023
CVWHAS Hub

Present:	Apologies:
Jenny Embleton – 118CV, Treasurer & Chairing James Gilderoy – 37CV, note taker Paul Skelly – 37CV Mary Ledgard – 26CV Arthur Tallon – 77/1WH Nigel Spencer – 35CV Jane Griffin – 47WH, site rep Pete Eliot – 49CV, site rep	Roger Dean – 55CV Tara Salter – 58b CV Nick Fry – 64CV, site rep

Minutes of the last meeting (4 December 2022)

- The minutes were agreed and taken as read.

Matters arising

- **Mary** is kindly progressing the laser cut Hub sign. Maps of the two sites have been procured and will be kept in the Hub for wayfinding purposes. All committee members to look out for cheap/free shelving suitable for the lean-to to hold small tools etc for swapping. **Pete** kindly volunteered to install a post near the Hub entrance to mark the concrete trip hazard. Hub spring clean at Easter, including treating rust at top of Hub door, details tbc.
- Committee decided to install fence and appropriate planting to prevent Hub visitors falling on the slope. Date, materials tbc.
- **Jenny** is kindly progressing the poster for CVWHAS events.
- Hub rota – from April Hub will be open for two hours, and during May to September will be open twice a month. Volunteers requested from committee members and **Jenny** will ask for help from CVWHAS members.
- Unfortunately, the star-gazing event had to be postponed due to cloud cover on planned and alternate dates. **Mary** will keep in touch with the astronomy club for future opportunities.
- **Nick** will be reminded to ask BHCC allotment team if gates are already named or numbered in their records, so we use the same on gate signage.

Spud-in-a-bucket

- **Mary** kindly volunteered to arrange this event again.
- Planned launch is 2 April.

Seedling Swap & Open Day

- Seedling Swap – Saturday 20 May
- Open Day – Monday 29 May (bank holiday)

- The Open Day would be an opportunity to visit other plots and talk to their plotheolders, it would not be open to the general public.
- A notice/flag will be created for plotheolders wishing to take part to attach to their plots to show that they are 'open'.
- **Paul** and **Nigel** kindly agreed to form a sub-committee to organise this event, other volunteers are encouraged to help.

Update from Site Reps (Jane and Pete)

- Lack of resource and red tape in BHCC continued to frustrate effective site management.
- BHCC has asked site reps to complete a questionnaire, though purpose is unclear. They appeared to be recruiting an additional member of staff.
- Uncultivated plots – some had not been worked for three years – were not being made available for letting at anything like an efficient rate and it was still very hard to contact any of the allotment team.
- Bills for 2022/23 still had not been issued (usually issued in October).
- Plotheolders were reminded not to leave unattended fires, including those in enclosed incinerators. A recent fire had spread causing damage to a hedge and neighbour's shed, resulting in a call out from the fire service. **Pete** will inform BHCC and ask them to send message out to all plotheolders.
- A plotheolder had complained to BHCC about solar lights being left on at night that could disturb wildlife (like moths and other nocturnal creatures).

Any Other Business

- Next Hub opening: Sunday 2 April, hosts tbc.
- **Jenny** suggested acquiring a woodchipper for the Hub that CVWHAS members could use. Questions were considered about how it would be powered, safety issues, storage and options of hiring or using a contractor. **Jane** is contacting BHAF and will ask if it could be funded. **Jenny** will research further.
- **Jenny** kindly agreed to investigate a smart payment gadget to make payments/donations easier.
- **Mary** kindly agreed to ask the BELTA representative about the new saplings planted along the fence at Beresford Road.

Date of next meeting

TBC