March & April Newsletter 2011

Our AGM this year was held at the North Star Pub, which provided a very friendly environment for discussion and planning. 16 members attended and elected a new, enlarged Committee. As the BWGA is scheduling more events and has several projects to bring forward, it was considered essential to involve more members in these decisions. Chris Jukes, our acting-Chair, stepped down, and Bob Hart was elected the new Chairman, with Sue Thomson continuing as Secretary and Juliet Whickham taking on the responsibilities of Treasurer. Sally Hick is now our able Minutes Secretary.

It was decided at the AGM that we would again participate in the Heritage Open Day schedule (Saturday & Sunday, 10th & 11th September). We plan to show the Ice House as well as our walled garden, indicating food production and storage associated with the Brisco residence. We also hope to repeat our involvement with Coastal Currents and have a resident artist using our site. Last summer we had a very successful Open Day, which we hope to achieve again.

The next event on our calendar is on the 23rd April (Saturday). "Summerfields Green Day" has been organised by Stuart Alexander (one of the Hastings Park Rangers) in conjunction with "Friends of Summerfields Wood", the BWGA, and several local entertainers & communicators. This should be a terrific day of fun, information and good food ... don't miss it! Detailed information can be found on our website bohemiawga.weebly.com

The plot-holders (over 30 individuals and 2 primary schools) have begun to see the benefits of all the digging and clearance work over the winter period. Some of the broad beans are already in flower, the potatoes have been planted and our Russian comfrey is looking strong again. The comfrey is already being used in our composting area to make liquid fertiliser. We also have a wormery on the go, with the little creatures digesting kitchen waste for our benefit. Please bring some of your kitchen left-overs for our resident worms and the composters the next time you come to the garden.

On a less happy note, we have been disappointed with the lack of progress with the wall repairs. Booker & Best delivered the coping stones last year and made a start setting them in place on top of the north wall (nearly opposite the entrance). When contacted in February, they assured us that the work would soon be finished. By the middle of April nothing had changed ... all the coping stones were still strewn around the garden. The Estates Department was contacted; Amy Terry (Manageress) explained that Booker & Best's estimate had been increased and the Council did not have the funds in that financial year to carry on the work. Now, with the new financial year and fresh funds available, work should be able to recommence. Hopefully we will be informed of the new work schedule.

If any member would like to initiate a project, supervise an event or offer any suggestions, please contact the Committee by email. We welcome new ideas and active participation from our talented, ingenious, clever, resourceful, intelligent, considerate members.

Sue Thomson - Secretary Bob Hart - Chair

Distributed 16th April 2011