

North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

Summer Newsletter

September 2011

Registered office: 31b Tomswood Hill, Barkingside, Essex IG6 2HL FSA ref 9792

Rent Renewals

The rents for plots are due to be paid on October 1st for the 2011/2 season. Please come along to your site's Trading Hut on either of the following dates with your membership card and money.

Sunday 2th October 10-12

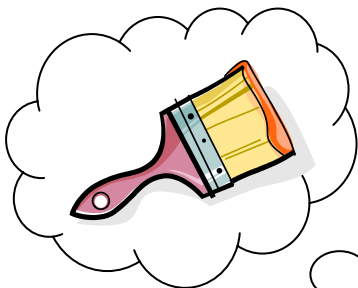
Sunday 9th October 10-12

If you cannot make either of these dates, please contact either David or Wendy to make alternative arrangements as soon as possible.

We now have waiting lists for both sites, so if you do not pay your rent or contact David or Wendy by Monday 10th, we will assume that you no longer wish to continue and we will release your plot to somebody on the waiting list. If you are leaving us, please let us know and remove any personal belongings or crops that you wish to keep before then. If you wish to change plots, please let us know so that we can accommodate you. (Telephone numbers are overleaf.)

Rents may be paid by cash or by cheque to NHAHA and are as follows:

	Regular fee Rent + membership	Concession fee Rent + membership
Half plot	£26	£24
Full plot	£50	£46



Volunteers anyone?

We keep our rents low partly because of the fantastic support of our volunteer helpers. If you can help in any way – for example, maintaining the buildings and communal areas, serving or assisting in the shop – we would love to hear from you.



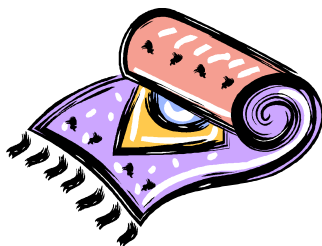
Rent increase explained

Each year we review our finances and each year we either keep the rents the same or increase them a little. This year, in the light of recent events, we will be increasing our rents a little more than usual for the following reasons:

- The changes to the responsibilities detailed in our new leases with Redbridge Council mean that we are now responsible for purchasing our own rubbish skips, incurring a cost to the Association of around £1500 a year for three skips to each site each year. These skips have been in great demand and so this cost may well be higher. We urge you to make greater effort to reduce the need for these skips – composting and re-using where possible, swapping items with neighbours and not bringing stuff onto the site unless you really will use it.
- Water usage has increased dramatically these last two years, despite requests and advice given on how to minimise water use. We are now paying in excess of £20 a year per plot for water and have previously allowed for £9-18 in the rents for this according to the plot size. This alone would necessitate an increase in rent.
- The cost of our new lease will not be provided to us until October but we have been given the formula that will be used and are expecting this to rise by approx. 5%.
- We have put great efforts into repairing and improving the premises at New North Road over the last two years which has used up a substantial part of our reserves, and now need to do the same at Fulwell Avenue. Added to this, the thefts and damage caused this year have incurred cost and inconvenience to the Association that is not wholly covered by our insurance.

All in all we are expecting substantial increases in our expenses and these need to be covered by rent increases. The shops provide an important service but only just cover their costs and cannot be relied upon to assist in subsidising the rents.

Despite this increase, we are still offering a lower rent than our neighbours. The Redbridge Council website states that *'Rent ranges between £73.50 and £90.50 a year.'* – well above the £50 we are requesting – so I think we are still offering excellent value for money.



**Please remember
NO MORE CARPET!**

Chairman's spot

As usual it has been yet another busy year and for those who are not already aware, we have secured fresh leases for both of our sites, with contractual terms lasting until 28th September 2020. Several of our members spoke on behalf of the Society at Area 3 Meetings, Cabinet Meetings and Meetings of the Full Council where we pursued our Councillors with considerable vigour in order to sustain our very survival. I have considerable pleasure when I recall my wife, Anne Sevant, standing very straight-backed with her specs at the tip of her nose 'lecturing' the full council with some very considerable effect. At least on that occasion it was not me who was the 'target'.

With very best wishes for the new season,

David Sevant, Chairman

AGM

Our AGM this year has been booked for Saturday 19 November at 2pm. As usual it will be at Hainault Baptist Church, Franklyn Gardens. We strongly urge as many of you to attend as is possible, so that decisions can be agreed on the day and so that the voices of the majority of plot-holders can be heard.

The principal function of the AGM is to receive the annual report and to vote in the members of the committee. If you have any suggestions as to any plot-holder who you think would make a good contribution to this, please nominate them on the form below. New blood is always good to keep us on our toes, and we always have openings for willing volunteers!

**NORTH HAINAULT ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION & PROTECTION SOCIETY LTD
NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011**

All plot-holders are entitled to nominate members of their committee for the year 2011/12. You can make your choice by nominating any member or members of the current committee or you can nominate any other current plot-holder who has given their express consent for their name to be put forward for the selection process. Please enter your selection against any or all of the positions listed below and return this form to either the trading hut at the Tomswood Hill/Fulwell Ave site or to David Sevant at 85 Ravensbourne Gardens, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0XQ before 19 November 2011, the date of the AGM.

Chairman: _____

Hon. Secretary _____

Hon. Treasurer _____

Newsletter Secretary _____

Site Secretary – Tomswood/Fulwell _____

Site Steward/s – Tomswood/Fulwell 1 _____ 2 _____

Signed: _____ Date _____ 2011

I can't believe it's already six months on and time to think about renewing rents already. The weather has been erratic to say the least – first mud, then parched earth – and some crops are ready earlier than normal. Who would have thought we would see blackberries ready in July??? Looking around the sites, it's great to see them looking so much better than when I first started six years ago. Ok so there's less blackberries up for grabs, but instead there are so many more people to chat to and swap ideas with and the gentle sound of laughter is often heard. At the same time, we generally respect each other's space and if quiet contemplation is your thing (and we all need it sometimes) then that is still available in abundance. Now if I could just get to grips with how much to sow and when, life in the garden really would be rosy.

Your Editor

Vision who?

You may well have heard that Redbridge Council has handed the overall running of its entire leisure and cultural services over to an organisation called Vision. This includes all parks and allotments. We do not anticipate any changes to how we operate other than those already agreed in the new leases and have to report that to date our experience has been favourable.



Places to go

I like to get out and about when I can and London and Essex both provide a wealth of places to go and things to see., You might like the following local events coming up in September and October:

9 th Sept	Bat Walk at Valentines Park
11 th Sept	Classic Cars at Hedingham Castle
10 & 11 th Sept	Essex County Show at Barleylands – great for steam engine enthusiasts
18 th – 24 th Sept	Wanstead Art Trail
Sept	Southend Whitebait Festival
30 th Sept	GLOWalk – a sponsored 10k walk in aid of Haven House
1 st Oct	Essex Art Club Annual Show at Valentines Mansion
8-16 th Oct	Woodford Festival

...and another that caught my eye although it's not that local, is theUK Rock Paper Scissors Championship on 22nd October at Chancery Lane – participants must book in advance!

General information

Identification

The issue of plothead identification came up at the last AGM and we asked for feedback on a number of ideas. None has been forthcoming and with other matters to deal with this has not progressed. We are getting comparative costs of the options and will make a decision shortly.

The options were a) printed keyfobs b) laminated/plastic cards c) enforce use of existing card. Let us know what you think!

Our Shops

Open 10-12 Sundays

Open to the public too, so bring along a neighbour or a friend to take advantage of our discounts and friendly, local service. We aim to stock what is needed on site, so if you have ideas for us, please let us know.

Please remember they are manned by volunteers who are happy to help and also to answer any questions they are able, or point you in the right direction if they are not.

Cash or cheque payment only.



Tomswood Garden Plot

Welcome to our new plot holders on site. Please pop along and make use of our communal garden at Plot 78. We have a selection of herbs that you are welcome to use, as well as a seat to rest and enjoy a break. I have added a quince and an apple tree this year which hopefully should provide a crop next year.

Diane

Contacts

Management committee

Chair	David Sevant
Secretary	Ken Coe
Treasurer	Norman Hagger

New North Road

Plot Lettings	Wendy Rowe
Plot Stewards	Wendy Rowe Brian Watkins Jim Smith

Tomswood Hill

Plot Lettings	David Sevant
Plot Stewards	Terry Byrne Norman Hagger
Garden Plot & newsletter	Diane Meakin

These numbers are provided for Society use only.

What's on my patch?

New North Road

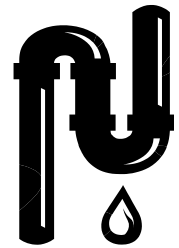
Haven't we had some fantastic growing weather this year! It has been consistently good with some bouts of penetrating rain. This combination has resulted in everything growing at a terrific pace including the weeds. You may have, like me, spent hours weeding one day only to return a couple of days later to find that they had all returned bringing along several of their mates!

Allotment soil can take a bit of a bashing over the years, regular cultivation can damage the soil structure and chemical fertilisers can cause an imbalance in the soil structure. You might consider trying a green manure (we have some on sale in the shop) they can suppress weeds and recycle nutrients which may have been lost from the soil.



We have had a fantastic show of sunflowers on our site, congratulations to all those who grew some magnificent specimens.

The more observant among you may have noticed that Brian and Steve spent many days in the early summer, repairing tanks and replacing the metal fittings which had been stolen, this included all the taps. Unfortunately we cannot replace the taps as they are illegal! (Speak to Thames Water not us!)



There have been a couple of incidents of crop theft; I only hope that it is outsiders and not anyone from our site.



When renewing your rent it would be a great help if you could write a cheque (make it payable to NHAHA). This cuts down having to count out money and most importantly carrying it about. Prompt renewal is requested as I don't want to have to spend time reminding you. If you have decided to give it up PLEASE let me know and also return your keys.

As ever we would like to appeal to those with a little time on their hands to step forward and help out on the committee. None of us are getting any younger and we would like some new blood to bring some fresh ideas to committee meetings and assistance on the site with grass cutting, general maintenance and assisting in the shop occasionally on Sundays. Every little helps.

Enjoy your allotment.

Wendy