

North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

Spring Newsletter

September 2010

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

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter

Well it's certainly been an interesting year for weather! Those of us that can only get across to water once a week have not done as well as previous years, though we still have too many courgettes!

Revised Council Allotment Leases

Many thanks for all the comments and suggestions we received about the draft leases. We have had a series of very productive discussions with the council and are well on the way to signing on the dotted line..... The good news is that the ban on fruit trees has been replaced with a maximum size that should suit most of us, and that bees have been given a reprieve. Also that the fences along the road will remain the duty of the council although we get the toilets to clean.

New Rents

We have regretfully had to increase our rents by £2 per full plot so the new rates as from October 2010 are as follows: ***CHECK****

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

	Regular fee Rent + water	Concession fee Rent + water
Half plot	£11.50 + £9 = £20.50	£9.50 + £9 = £18.50
Full plot	£22 + £18 = £40	£19 + £18 = £37

Plus £2 membership per named plotholder.

The honorary members fee remains at £1 per person, for users of the Trading Hut without plots.

Paths

Inside this issue

- Leases
- Thefts – again!
- Paths
- Local site news
- Draft council responsibilities

Contacts

Management committee

Chair David Sevant
Secretary Ken Coe
Treasurer Norman Hagger

New North Road

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

Tomswood Hill

Plot Lettings Sec Anne Sevant
Plot Stewards Terry Byrne
 Norman Hagger

Garden Plot
& newsletter Diane Meakin

These numbers are provided for Society use only.

Trading Huts

Open Sundays 10 – 12

Pop in and see what we've got this week, pick up some ideas and have a chat.

See you there!

What's on my patch?

Tomswood Hill/Fulwell Avenue

Anne

New North Road

September already, hasn't the year flown. With the extremities of weather - long bitterly cold winter and a very hot dry summer I congratulate all those who have managed to get a good result from their plots. The committee continues to be concerned about plots which are rented every year and little or no work is carried out. You should not wait for a warning letter to plop onto your doormat before you rush over to the site and dig a placatory 3 ft square and then leave it for another few months, allowing weeds to develop and encroach onto neighbouring plots. If you have not got the time or cannot find the effort to pursue what should be an enjoyable relaxing hobby – then give it up. We have many onsite that require more space and currently a waiting list of 19 that are keen to have a go. I know I tell all newbies that if they are finding it difficult to let me know, in the time that I have been plot secretary only one person has been polite enough to do so.

To that end, the committee has decided when renewing rents consideration will be made as to how much work was undertaken during the whole year. This will include paths. It has been noticed that the half plots on the left hand side of the allotment have little work done to the path in front of the plot – it is not that wide and should be looked after by the individual plot holder.

Thanks to Steve who took away all our broken, misused wheelbarrows and refurbished them. I received a couple of complaints that there were no useable wheelbarrows. I am sorry, but I do not carry out a daily inspection of them, if one gets a puncture let a committee member know so that they can be mended quickly.

We will be stocking potatoes, onions, garlic and shallots in 2011, so please support us by buying your supplies from us. If you have never been into the shop, come and look around. I have seen some of you with goods from the superstores, and when asked why not buy from us, we are told you didn't know we sold them! We have a range of goods from bamboo canes, string and gloves to fertilisers, compost and grass seed. Most of our prices are in line with the outside retailers, our fertilisers are certainly a lot cheaper than the boxed variety that can be purchased elsewhere. We have a limited stock of spring bulbs for sale in the shop now and during Spring have a selection of ready to plant vegetables such as tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers.

Regarding rent renewal, I will only be available on the two dates announced, 3rd and 10th October, If you are unable to make it on those days you **must** contact me **beforehand** to arrange an alternative means of payment. I will not be sending out further reminders for you to pay nor will I accept late payment or instalments. **If your rental payment has not been received by 10th October it will be assumed that you no longer want your plot and it will be rented to someone else.** If this is the case please ensure all your personal property is removed from the plot by 10th October as the society will not accept any responsibility for items that may remain.

Please make a date in your diary to attend the AGM in November, it is important to us that you come along to hear what has been achieved throughout the year, how we are spending the money we have and to listen to your comments and suggestions as to how we can improve our site. We need to know either if we are doing it right or most importantly doing it wrong!

Wendy

Garden Plot

You could be forgiven for thinking I had forgotten about maintaining this part of the site. A combination of very wet then very hot weather made planting and weeding a nightmare, several of my perennials did not survive the winter and a change in my working hours meant that I was not able to spend as much time over here as I would have liked. I do however plan to sort out the beds over the autumn and winter, giving them a much needed dose of manure, ready for a better show next year.

On the good side, my husband bought a packet of mixed annual seeds which we started at home in drainpipes and they have done very well in the new rectangular bed. I plan to get a lot more of those next year. The vine, honeysuckle, clematis and artichokes are doing well and the asters should provide a good show in September, so all is not lost!

Diane

