

North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

Summer Newsletter

July 2012

Registered office: 31b Tomswood Hill, Barkingside, Essex IG6 2HL FSA ref 9792 Estd: Sept 1923



Welcome to our Summer newsletter.

When I started to write this we were under drought orders and I included a large section on using water wisely. Then came the rain! I hope you will forgive that I have still included this section as it has useful advice for those of you who are new to allotmenting – and a reminder to those not so new – but now maybe I should be considering raising beds on the section of my plot that was waterlogged – only it was half of it. My gooseberries loved the rain, they are fat and healthy, now I just need some sun to ripen them. Here's hoping that the rest of the season improves.

The Editor

News from the AGM

Our AGM in November was well attended and quite lively with several questions from the floor. Thank you for all those that came along to join us and to Norman and Eileen who again provided the refreshments.

Our Secretary Ken, stepped down from his role after over 25 years with us on the committee and we wish him a happy and well earned rest.

Most of the roles had only one applicant and were agreed unanimously, only one went to the vote and that was the post of Secretary. Our new Secretary is Anne Sevant and I am sure that she will fulfil this role with the same vivacity and vigour that she brings to her duties at Tomswood.

We also resurrected a role that has not been in use for a while, that of Vice Chair, and this has been filled by Alan Wagstaff from the New North Road site. We welcome him to the committee and wish him a long and productive time with us.

Next AGM – November 17th 2012

Put the date in your diaries now please! More details will follow nearer the time.

Inside this issue

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TRADING HUTS

There is one on each site and these are both open on Sundays from 10 – 12am.

If one hasn't got what you want, it's worth checking the other as they have some stock differences.

Blight

If you are unfortunate enough to have blight this year, please make sure you remove all the affected plant and dispose of it off site. Do not leave any part of the affected plants lying around on your pot as the fungus is airborne and will quickly pass to others.



Compost

Don't forget Redbridge's green waste collection service has resumed. They will collect up to 20 bags each week from your home on the day after your normal collection day. If you have green material that you can't compost, please take it home for them to collect, or to the dump on Chigwell Road. If you do not have transport, I'm sure someone will be able to assist you. Do not save it up to put in the skips – that is not what they are there for!

Water

This is always a contentious issue on the sites. A minority of plot holders use far more than is necessary causing consternation all round and with the increase in numbers, our water bill has increased substantially. Hoses are not allowed to be connected to the water tanks on the sites and that this is why the taps have been removed. This is in addition to the recent restriction by Thames Water. So, we thought it worth checking out a few tips to reduce this for the future.

- Make the most of the rain and catch what you can in water butts.
- Before planting new plants, dig as much bulky compost material into the ground as you can. Bean trenches can be lined with shredded cardboard and compost. It will make the soil nicer to work and will really help reduce the amount of watering you have to do.
- When planting vegetables such as courgettes, tomatoes and other large leafy plants, sink a flower pot into the ground next to them. This can be filled with water which will percolate down to the roots making sure that all the water you give them gets exactly where it is needed. (Another idea is to plant the plant in a hollow to reduce the run-off.)
- Hot sunny weather is when plants need the most water, but this is when you are likely to lose a lot of water through evaporation. Water early in the morning or late in the evening if you can, directing the water below the plant leaves. This will help reduce the loss. Another thing you could try is to lay a hessian sack on the soil after watering as a temporary mulch.
- Young plants and seeds need care. However, if you water them too much, they will not establish deeper roots which will help them through a dry period.
- Please do not *throw* buckets of water over your plot! The water rarely gets to where it is needed most.
- It should be obvious but..... your plot does not need to be watered after it has rained!



If you have a computer, go to www.thameswater.co.uk. You will find some freebies there, including watering gel for plants, save-a-flush bags for your toilet cistern and tap inserts which save water.

Paths

May I remind all plot-holders that all the paths between should be kept in good order so that members can move around safely. You are responsible for the left hand path between yourself and the next plot and for the path between yourself and the plot behind. The Society is responsible for the main paths. We have noticed debris left on the paths recently which have caused damage to the mowers, so please, if you are transporting stuff across the site, be aware of anything you drop and pick it up. Thank you.

What's on my patch?

New North Road

Another new and exciting season. Are you coping? Many are not. Despite the hard work undertaken by the Community Payback teams to clear plots for new rentals, sadly at least half have not yet been worked, resulting in warning letters being sent. Please be aware that we are committed to improving our site and having plot holders who really like growing vegetables and are not afraid to do a bit of hard work, during all weathers. Those who prefer to grow weeds will, after receiving a warning, be required to leave.

That being said it is nice to see new faces. We are proud that our site is a welcoming and friendly place full of interesting individuals. Our older members will always spare the time to share the knowledge they have gained and offer friendly advice on where you are 'going wrong'.

A very warm welcome to the newest members on the NNR committee. Sam and Jim are working hard to update and improve the shop. If you haven't visited yet why don't you pop along and have a look. There is a different bargain to be had each week and you will always receive a friendly smile and a bit of advice if you need it. Brian and Steve continue to look after site maintenance. I think you will agree they are doing a grand job. At the time of writing they were finishing off landscaping the back path. This was in a dreadful state and was, to say the least, dangerous. It is looking much neater and is a lot safer than it was. Alan and John are much needed new brooms. They are helping out with the admin and are always willing to step up and help out when needed

A gate has been erected to stop cars being driven down our main path. If this pathway gets too rutted, it makes it very difficult to maintain and cut. If you have a need to take a car down to a plot, please speak to one of the stewards (Wendy, Steve Brian, Jim, Sam, Peter, John or Alan) so that arrangements can be made.

Unfortunately the hut was broken into over the Easter weekend and several holes were made in the outside and interior walls. A lawnmower, strimmer and trailer, along with other items were taken.

Please ensure your paths surrounding your plot are kept tidy and free from obstructions.

I hope you all have a very productive and fruitful year.

Wendy

Tomswood Memorial Garden Plot

I think I need some advice guys.... I tried splitting the irises last year but they did not do well. Whether it was the weather or my less than green fingers I am not sure. I also had dismal results with my pansies - only three survived out of 30! But I am not down hearted. I have planted a selection of small perennials I have been nurturing at home which have filled some gaps, have planted geraniums for summer colour and my large white daisy is doing brilliantly.

I have had to take down the trellis that held aloft the bird box as the base had rotted, so need to install a replacement something for the box and the clematis that grew on it.

I am the first to admit that I am no gardener, just a willing pair of hands, so if you have any advice, wish to help me keep control of the weeds and ants, or are handy with a hammer, I would love to hear from you.



Diane

Distribution

We are considering offering to send this newsletter by email to those that wish to receive it that way. If you would like this, could you please pass your email address to me.

As with the rest of the plot holder details, we would not pass this information on to anyone else, they are used only for the purpose of contacting you on Society business.

Thank you,

Diane

Happy Birthday!

It's our 90th birthday in September 2013, so thinking caps on please for ideas to celebrate!

Contacts

Management committee

Chair	David Sevant
Vice Chair	Alan Wagstaff
Secretary	Anne Sevant
Treasurer	Norman Hagger

New North Road

Plot Lettings	Wendy Rowe
Plot Stewards	Alan Wagstaff
	Brian Watkins
	Jim Smith
	Peter Elliott
	Sam Swanborough plot 36
	John Burt

Tomswood Hill

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

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