

North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

Summer Newsletter

August 2008

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

Welcome to our Summer newsletter

You will be very pleased to hear that both of our sites have attracted new plot holders to join the perennials already on site. New North Road now has a waiting list and Fullwell Avenue is now well over 90% full! We are looking very closely at unkept plots in order to find space for newcomers.

This does mean that holders of plots that are not being maintained will be asked to either resume working or release their plots to those on the waiting lists. If you are one of those, would like to continue, but have not been able to keep up, perhaps you would like to consider swapping your full size plot for a half size one? We are dividing up some plots to encourage more tenants who may otherwise be unable to join us.

Vandalism

On the not so positive side, it is also the time of year when we are more likely to experience vandalism on our sites. It is not normally a great problem, but last summer it escalated, with several hundreds of pounds worth of damage to plumbing equipment, tools and crops. Already this year we have had one major incident which hit the local papers. Can we please ask everyone to keep an eye out for unexpected visitors and to report any incidents to both the committee and to the police. Thank you.

100 years of allotments!

Did you know that this is the 100th anniversary of the Smallholdings and Allotments Act which first made the provision of allotments a statutory obligation. Our own allotments were first created in 1923 so are 85 years old.

Rubbish

Can I please remind you all that the disposal of rubbish from your plot is your own responsibility. Most of us have compost bins and from time to time we rent skips from the council for non-compostable rubbish. However some of you are still dumping rubbish on other plots or the car park and this must stop. It is not fair to the people coming in to these plots or to the volunteers who help them clear up after you!

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Annual charges for 2008/9

Rent per rod: £2.10 full or
£1.70 reduced

Water per rod: £1.80

Subscription £2

ie a 10 rod plot is £41 pa
and a 5 rod plot is £21.50

Payable from October 1st.

Renewals

The time is shortly coming when we will be asking for your subscriptions and rent for October 2008 to September 2009. The good news is that we are able to keep the rent and water rates the same as last year. We will however need to increase the membership fee from £1 to £2 per person as our subscription to the National Association of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners has increased substantially.

Full details on how and when to pay will be issued in late September.

Volunteers needed!

Wow, these sites are really good value. I wonder how you do it? Well for a start the administration, maintenance and shops are all run mainly by volunteers. Would you have a moment to help us with this? There are regular jobs such as the mowing of the paths that are in hand, but we could always do with a bit of ad hoc help with litter picking, repairing fences, plumbing etc. If you could help in any way please let any of us know so that we can call on you when needed. Thank you.

Trading Hut News

What do we sell in our trading huts? A great variety of things, that's what! Please call in for your supplies of seeds, bulbs, fertilisers, composts, chemicals, seed trays, supports, etc. Watch out for signs letting you know then the autumn onions and bulbs arrive. Both shops are open on Sundays from 10-12am. We try to offer a good selection and be competitive on prices. Come on in and see us, whether to browse, buy or just have a chat. We're always pleased to see you.

Busy busy bees!

It's great to see so many new faces joining us and so many children eager to find out where their food comes from. This is great news for all of us and has given the sites a renewed buzz. Please remember though that while we generally appreciate and search out the company that comes with being on a communal plot, there are times when a bit of peace and contemplation is needed.



Parents, please make sure you know where your children are at all times. There are plenty of hazards to befall the unwary, be it falling into water butts, finding bee nests or thorns in the undergrowth, or even broken glass from neighbourhood drinkers who feel it's ok to chuck their bottles over the fence. There is a first aid kit in the toilet, but we'd rather you didn't have to use it.

Don't forget everyone, many of the un-let plots that were fair game for blackberrying are no longer un-let, much to the chagrin of my own children who loved being able to gather as much as they could off those bushes.

What's on my patch?

New North Road

Firstly, isn't it great to see so many new allotmenters on the plot. Some of you have been working very hard over the last few months. It's nice when you start to see (and taste) the fruit of all your hard work. I hope our older members have made you welcome and given you the benefit of their many years of experience.

Please make sure you keep your pathways maintained. This not only makes access easier but makes the whole site easy on the eye!

Some plot holders are still abusing the use of hosepipes. Extra water butts have been installed and these should be used so that ALL members get a fair share of water during the day.

Please remember - compost what you can on your own plot and get rid of non compostable rubbish from your allotment in the skips,

When was the last time you visited the trading hut on a Sunday morning? Why don't you go along and have a chat with Dennis and see what we have on

Tomswood Hill/Fullwell Avenue

Now that we have made great progress in clearing the site, we would appreciate any help you can give with helping to keep it good. We would also appreciate help in clearing the piles built up over the winter on the cleared plots. All rubbish you produce from your own plot should be disposed of conscientiously and that means NOT on the vacant plots or the car park. Contrary to popular belief, we do not have a communal compost heap on this site and skips are for non-compostable materials only.

In particular, the communal path behind the garden plot has been obliterated by dumped green refuse at the end of the adjacent plot. This plot has now been let and is being worked and this dumping must stop.

Tomswood Memorial Garden

Last winter we cleared the bramble half of the Garden Plot with plans to extend the flower beds and paths, perhaps laying another lawn. I have been very fortunate in acquiring a large quantity of stone paviours from a skip and from Jim at NNR, so I now have the materials for a new pathway which will be properly laid in the Autumn. In the meantime, I have planted out the new flower bed with perennials and annuals and am waging (but currently losing!) a campaign against the weeds on the final part. If you have the odd spare half hour, please feel free to join me!

You will probably have seen the newspaper report about the vandalism to this plot and also to crops on other plots at Fullwell Avenue. This will not put me off and I plan to continue with the work in hand. Now that there is a foundation of perennials I plan to make it even more colourful next summer with more bedding plants, something which I didn't properly do this year.

Please come along and enjoy the view.



Manure Alert

You may have seen the recent news that farmyard manure may be contaminated with aminopyralid, a hormone based weedkiller designed to deal with broad leaved weeds on grassland. Our manure comes from several local stables and we are trying to find out if we are affected by this. We have not had any damage reported on our sites but I have reproduced advice from the RHS and put copies in the Trading Huts for your information. In summary though:



- Typical symptoms include cupped leaves and fern like growth on sensitive plants. The shoot tips become pale, narrow and distorted, with prominent veining on the foliage. Growth generally is stunted leaving most crops unusable.
- Plants affected: potatoes, beans, peas, but also other vegetables and salad crops.
- The Pesticide Safety Directorate has investigated the risk to human health and concluded that produce from affected land is safe to eat, although ruined crops SHOULD NOT be composted.
- To speed up the rate of breakdown of residues on contaminated land, rotovate or dig over the soil several times, preferably between summer and autumn when the soil is warmest. Concentrate on mixing in pockets of manure such as at the base of trenches. Residue levels peak three weeks after digging and then break down rapidly, so the ground will be safe to replant the following spring.
- Scrape off any loose manure used as a mulch, return it to the supplier or spread it on grassland. Failing this put it in council refuse – NOT in green waste for recycling.
- Stacked manure can hold residues for up to two years, but if you can, store it for later use.
- If you do have any ruined crops, please report it to us.

Contacts

Management committee

David Sevant	(Chair)
Ken Coe	(Secretary)
Norman Hagger	(Treasurer)



New North Road

Plot Lettings Secretary	Wendy Rowe
Plot Stewards	Wendy Rowe
	Brian Watkins
	Jim Smith
Garden Plot & newsletter	

Tomswood Hill

Anne Sevant
Terry Byrne
Norman Hagger
Diane Meakin