

North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

Members' Newsletter October 2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 25th November 2017

14.00 – 16.00

The Stockade (Scout Hut), David's Way Hainault IG6 3BQ

Refreshments following the meeting

TRADING HUTS OPEN

Sundays 10am to 12 noon

GREAT PRODUCT FOR SALE

HEAVY DUTY BLACK POROUS GROUND COVER

2m wide £1.25 per metre

2m x 25m roll £30

2m x 50m roll £55

3.3m wide £1.75 per metre

3.3m x 50m roll £80

If you can't make it on Sundays ask a Site Steward to arrange an alternative time to make a purchase.



PHOTO COMPETITION

The closing date for the photo competition has passed BUT we will accept late entries.... This year there are three categories in the Photo Competition and you may enter one photo in each category:

A. Bountiful Earth B. Wildlife at the Allotment C. Allotment Structures

There will be one winner in each category.

Please email your photos to the committee OR bring a print of your photos to the shop by 19th November 2017. The photos will be displayed at the AGM and all who attend will be able to vote for their favourite photo.

Contact the Committee

Email: tomswood_stewards@nhaha.org.uk

new_north_stewards@nhaha.org.uk

31b Tomswood Hill, Barkingside, Essex IG6 2HL

New Volunteer Gardener

A few weeks ago, a young man called Ritchie started working as a volunteer gardener at Tomswood Hill. He is living in the area temporarily and can't commit to an allotment of his own, so he is helping us with the new communal garden.

Perhaps you know someone who would like to do a bit of gardening or would like to have an allotment but isn't sure ... they would be very welcome to help on our sites.

Children at the Allotment

If you have children and they didn't grow a pumpkin this year, ask your neighbouring plot-holders, who have grown them, if they can save you some seeds. You can even save seeds from shop bought fruit.

Dry the seeds and keep them in an envelope until next spring. Sow seed in pots in May. Plant out in June.

Pinch out growing tips when 60cm long. Protect from slugs. Place larger fruit on a tile to stop rotting

Cut with 10cm stalk when fruit have coloured and sound hollow when tapped, but before frosts.



FUNNY BUT TRUE ...

Albert took over an old, run-down, abandoned allotment. The beds were overgrown with weeds, the shed was falling down, and the greenhouse was just a frame with broken glass.

During his first day of work, the vicar stopped by to bless Albert's work, saying,

"May you and God work together to make this the allotment of your dreams!"

A few months later, the vicar stopped by again. Lo and behold, it was completely transformed. The shed had been expertly rebuilt, vegetables were growing in neat rows and the greenhouse had been re-glazed and was full of plump, ripe tomatoes.

"Amazing!" exclaimed the vicar. "Look what God and you have accomplished together!"

"Yes, reverend," said Albert, "but remember what the place was like when God was working it alone!"



AUTUMN JOBS ON THE ALLOTMENT

October 1st is the start of the new allotment season and those of you who have had an allotment for many years will know exactly what this means ... We often hear newer members of our society say: "But what can I do at this time of year - you can't grow anything now!"

The answer is: "Yes you can!" **Garlic, onion sets, broad beans and some varieties of peas can all be put in during October and November.**

This time of year is also the most important time to **clear the plot of plant debris and weeds and to prepare the soil for the growing season.** Dig thoroughly and add organic matter, especially to areas that will be used for plants that are hungry feeders. Spread lime on areas that will be used for cabbages and other brassicas.

A well prepared plot will produce stronger and healthier plants.

Have you
paid your
rent for
2017/18?

Bonfires and Rubbish

Now that bonfires are allowed, a number of plot-holders are burning their rubbish. Well done to those who are being responsible, keeping watch over their fires, burning at a time of day when there are not many people on site and keeping their fires to a manageable size.

Please remember that any plastic or rubber materials should not be put on bonfires as they produce toxic fumes. Also please make sure that the local residents are not being subjected to too much smoke, Tomswood have had a skip recently and New North Road will be having one soon. If you miss the skip, you will need to make your own arrangements for removing rubbish that cannot be burnt or composted from your plot. However, this does not mean dumping it on another part of the site as some people have recently been doing.

If you are a new plot holder and have inherited rubbish, please talk to us.

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Previous newsletters and more articles on our websites:

nhaha.org.uk & nnr-allotments.org.uk