

# North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

## Members' Newsletter

### April 2018

Previous newsletters and more articles can be found on our website: [nhaha.org.uk](http://nhaha.org.uk)



#### TRADING HUTS OPEN

Sundays 10am to 12 noon

We still have some stocks of potatoes and onion sets in the two trading huts. This month is the time to be planting these, so if you haven't got any yet, ask Sam or Norman to save you some. Remember you can ask a committee member if you can't make it on a Sunday and they can arrange another time.

#### NEW RESIDENTS AT TOMSWOOD



Waterlogging was really bad on our two sites this spring and at Tomswood a group of ducks were considering taking up permanent residence! They were seen wandering around the site for just over a week but left once the 'ponds' dried out.

#### Bonfires

At our allotments we allow bonfires between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> April, but we would like tenants to be considerate.



Not everyone enjoys inhaling smoke on a lovely sunny day when they want to spend time on their allotment. So if your fire is affecting others, ask them if they mind ... and if they do, then find another time when you can light your fire. Most people wouldn't mind a fire that is lit late in the day and burns quickly. A heap that smoulders for hours should be avoided. Please also be aware that it is an offence to burn items that produce noxious fumes.

#### How Busy Have We Been ...

Over the winter months committee members and volunteers have fixed leaks in water pipes, installed new taps, trimmed boundary hedging, cleared litter left around perimeters, removed rubbish, cleared neglected areas, made some derelict areas available for 'new' plots, re-stocked the trading huts and improved the communal gardens.

#### Volunteers Always Needed

Can you spare some time to help?

#### Contact the Committee

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Emails: [tomswood\\_stewards@nhaha.org.uk](mailto:tomswood_stewards@nhaha.org.uk)  
[new\\_north\\_stewards@nhaha.org.uk](mailto:new_north_stewards@nhaha.org.uk)

#### April at the Allotments

It has been a cold and very wet winter and only the hardy regulars have been working on their plots throughout this bad spell. They have their plots ready for sowing and planting but it is not too late if you haven't ventured out yet. Make a plan and get down to your plot for a few hours whenever you can.

April is the month when everyone gets busy at the allotment. It is the time to plant potatoes, garlic and onion sets as well as making sowings of beetroot, cabbage, carrot, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, parsnip, peas, radish, spinach, spring onions, swiss chard & turnip. But this year some plots have been waterlogged, so it has been almost impossible to do any work on them. If you have had this problem, wait until the weather gets warmer and your ground is workable ... you should soon be able to catch up. If you have a greenhouse you can sow runner beans, sweetcorn, courgette, marrow, pumpkin, squashes and cucumbers for planting out once the danger of night frosts is past.



#### How long have Allotments been around?

Allotments have been in existence for hundreds of years, with evidence pointing back to Anglo-Saxon times. But the system we recognise today has its roots in the Nineteenth Century, when land was given over to the labouring poor for the provision of food growing. This measure was desperately needed thanks to the rapid industrialisation of the country and the lack of a welfare state. In 1908 the Small Holdings and Allotments Act came into force, placing a duty on local authorities to provide sufficient allotments, according to demand. However it wasn't until the end of the First World War that land was made available to all, primarily as a way of assisting returning service men (Land Settlement Facilities Act 1919) instead of just the labouring poor.

The rights of allotment holders in England and Wales were strengthened through the Allotments Acts of 1922, but the most important change can be found in the Allotments Act of 1925 which established statutory allotments which local authorities could not sell off or covert without Ministerial consent, known as Section 8 Orders. Further legislation has been listed over the intervening years which have affected allotments.

Loughton "Potato Fields" is thought to be the second oldest allotment site in the country and our own Allotment Society has been in existence since 1923.

#### ADVANCE NOTICE

This year we will be having our AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> November from 2pm to 5pm. As usual it will be held at the Scout Hall near Hainault Station. The first half is a formal meeting, followed by a social gathering with refreshments.

#### GLASS

Please do not bring glass onto site. Greenhouses, cold frames and shed windows should be made of plastic. Glass is a hazard that we want to remove from our sites

**Cars** should only be parked in the designated car parks on site. If you need to drive along any of the main paths to deliver heavy items to your plot, please only do so when the ground is firm. Any damage caused to the paths or plots must be rectified.