



Golders Green Allotment Association

20 April 2020 Newsletter

Annual General Meeting Cancelled

As you know we have had to cancel the AGM because of the Covid-19 lockdown. As soon as we are able, we will hold the AGM.

Under the current lockdown, we are very fortunate to still be allowed to attend our plots but there are still important rules to observe at this time.

1. **No visitors should be invited to your plot.** Only close family that you live with. NO ONE ELSE! Gate codes should not be given to anyone else.
2. **Bonfires and smokey BBQs are not allowed.** We must be seen to be working our plots NOT having parties!
3. **If you wear gloves to open and close the gates YOU MUST TAKE THEM HOME WITH YOU.** There have been many complaints from other ploholders that these gloves are being dumped by the gates and in the carpark. Committee members and other ploholders are having to pick them up after you. This is not acceptable.
4. **Another complaint from fellow ploholders is they are finding small blue plastic bags of rubbish on their plots.** Please take your rubbish home with you. It is disrespectful to leave it on your plot for it to be either carried off by foxes or blown onto other plots!

Thanks to Anna for opening the shop on Saturdays for you! It's usually open between 1.30 and 3pm for you. More compost has been ordered and she is getting more seeds in to replenish what we have sold. There are also potatoes and onions and it's not too late to plant these.

This year has been an extraordinary one which none of us have seen the likes of in our lifetime. I personally, and know others also feel very privilege to be allowed to visit the allotment. It has maintained some normality and solace to my family. It's also very good for our wellbeing which I'm sure you all recognise as being so important in these times.

Clearly, we have had to cancel the AGM this month and asked you in a previous mail chimp if you were happy that the current committee carry on until such time as an AGM can be held. We had no adverse responses so thank you.

Current Committee members are:

Sara Bell – current Chair

Jennie Norwood – current Secretary

Nick Jackson – current Treasurer

Silas Kendal – current Site Manager

Anna Feldman – current Trading Hut Secretary

John Bell – current Plot Secretary

Bryan Alcock - Tretawn

Many of you have been attending your plot but clearly there are some that have not, and we hope you are well. No one should worry if they have not managed to get to their plots. Please let us know if this applies to you.

Drainage: We said we would try and do some more land drainage this year but unfortunately, because of the lockdown, we probably won't be able to. But if we can later in the year, we will look at this problem that some of you have.

Security: Despite our new fencing along the park perimeter we have experienced a few break-ins by what appear to be kids. They have jumped

over even in the middle of the day! If you do see this please phone the police and let one of the committee know. Again we always say you shouldn't leave anything of any value in your sheds, nor should you lock them as this gives the impression that there is something of value inside.

The new security lights in both the Amber Grove and main Trading Hut car park are working but unfortunately, we have had some issues with the CCTV and we are sorry about this and hope it will be sorted out this year. Still a big thank you to Silas for endeavouring to sort it out under lock down! Please be patient.

Gate Padlocks: At this time, it is imperative that you close the gates after you at all times – even if the trading hut is open. If you are wearing gloves to do that then you must take them home with you and not dump them on the ground! You also must scramble the numbers please!

Trading Hut: As you know our trading hut is staffed by volunteers plotheolders who, on top of their other commitments, give their time to ensuring the Trading Hut is open at key times of the year. That said, we are always looking for extra volunteers. **Please let us know if you think you can help.** We still have potatoes; onion sets and seeds as well as everything else available for you. The hut, despite only being open on Saturdays at the moment is doing well. If you have any suggestions for stock, please let us know – leave a note in the hut.

Waiting List/plot availability: There are currently 25 people on the waiting list and currently 2 very hard to let plots available. We have had 12 new applications for a plot in April so far, so you can see how sort after they are! We also have 8 new plotheolders this year, all of which are doing very well with their plots.

Uncultivated/Untidy Plots 2020: We will do a plot inspection later in the summer but as said, for those that have not been able to attend we won't be

sending untidy plot letters but we will get in contact, if you haven't already done so to us, just to make sure you are ok?

Things to celebrate 2019

- Over 98% of our plots are cultivated, producing fabulous vegetables and flowers, benefiting health and creating friendships and shared values on our multicultural Allotment community!
- Silas won runner up for best plot for the last year in the borough wide Barnet Allotment Associations annual plot competition and that is quite an achievement!! And our site, as a whole, got a commendation. Well done Silas and everyone else!

Best wishes from Sara and the Committee. Stay well!.

Any queries contact Sara on sarathebells@gmail.com

