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GOLDERS GREEN ALLOTMENT & HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

23rd February 2007

Flat 2, 11 Parsifal Road,
London, NW6 1UG.

Dear Member,

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of your Association, which will be held at 8pm on Tuesday 27th March in the small hall of Claremont Free Church, behind Carey Hall, in Claremont Road, NW2 (between Pennine Drive and The Vale). This meeting is for everybody. Your views and ideas are welcome, and if you have problems or criticisms, this is your opportunity for us all to discuss them.

Barnet Council is making proposals for Barnet Federation of Allotments to take over the running of all allotments on its behalf. Discussions are ongoing and we will report to members when firm proposals are on the table.

The Lands Tribunal has refused to enforce one covenant that prevented redevelopment at Hendon Football Club, but another covenant still remains to be considered and development is presently thwarted until all legal opposition has been heard. We are also taking an interest in the Cricklewood and Brent Cross Regeneration plans, lest these affect our allotment site, not least by causing flooding.

On a lighter note, Michael Healy was again awarded the cup for best allotment in the Central Area at last October's Federation of Allotments prizegiving.

We still have problems with plots that are cluttered with junk. We appeal to plotheholders to keep our site tidy. Barnet Council's decision to pay for no more than 3 skips per year makes life very difficult. *You are reminded that skips may not be used for rubbish brought from outside, or for wood, weeds and soil, which can be composted or burnt.* Compost bins are available at advantageous prices. Please ask if you would like one.

We have recently experienced serious security problems on the site. One set of vandals has set out to destroy the gate from Clitterhouse Park. Another set has attacked several site padlocks with bolt cutters. Most gates now have a replacement lock, which will accept your existing key. At the Amber Grove gate, however, we are experimenting with a combination lock. Please contact us if you need to know how to open this.

Every year we emphasize that bonfires are not allowed between 1st May and 30th September, except on the first Wednesday in July, August and September, and that during October bonfires may be lit only after 4pm each day. Last summer there were some serious breaches of these rules. When bonfires are permitted at other times please do not burn material that will produce heavy smoke or pollution in the neighbourhood. These are important issues with potential political consequences for all allotment holders. We also had problems last year with dogs running around our site. They must be kept on a lead.

Please, please do not leave the gates unlocked or open and unattended, except when the Trading Hut is open on Saturdays (2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.) and Sundays (10.30a.m. to 12 noon). There is a real danger of unwelcome intruders and fly tippers (who have recently been dumping on the building site adjacent to the trading hut!).

Please keep paths around plots clear, mown and at least 18" (1/2 metre) wide between plots. Our rotavator is available for hire, along with trimmers and mowers. If you are unable to cultivate your plot please cover it, so that weeds and brambles do not get out of hand. And please tell us *as soon as possible*, if you are unable to carry on. We have a waiting list for plots.

You are invited to the very enjoyable Friern Barnet Show on 18th/19th August, and to enter your produce.

Last summer's weather produced magnificent crops. Here's hoping for another good year with no hosepipe ban.

Corona Esterhazy - Secretary

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Annual report
5. Annual accounts*

6. Alterations to Rules
7. Election of Officers
8. Election Of Committee
9. Election of Hon Auditor
10. Election of Life Members

11. Competitions for 2007
12. Affiliations
13. Any other business

*Audited annual accounts will be available at the meeting