

GOLDERS GREEN ALLOTMENT & HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

23rd February 2008

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

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting of your Association will be held at 8pm on Tuesday 1st April 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. This is the opportunity for us to discuss your ideas, views, problems and criticisms.

Sadly, as most of you will know, during 2007 we lost two well-loved officers and friends, our President, Peter Perfect, and our Chairman and mainstay, John Wingate who passed away in August. The latter's boots are hard to fill, but with your help, we hope to keep our site running smoothly. At a Committee meeting in September Bruno Rotti was elected acting Chairman, David Raeburn took over as Trading Secretary, and John Bell and David Feldman became joint Plot Secretaries (0207 624 0676). These appointments will require confirmation at the AGM. Peter Ford is trying to keep John's plant propagation operation going, and a number of volunteers have got together to maintain John's plot in his memory. Harry Liddiard was elected President at last year's AGM and continues as Vice-Chairman.

Association membership fees have not been increased for some 15 years and are now uneconomic. At the AGM your committee will propose that from 2009 there will be a flat fee of £1.50 p.a. for all categories of member.

We need helpers for the Trading Hut rota, particularly on Sunday mornings. Can you assist in this, or in other ways?

Proposals for Barnet Federation of Allotments to take over the running of all allotments in the Borough are still under discussion, but proceeding very slowly. Redevelopment at Hendon Football Club is not proceeding at the moment. We shall monitor the forthcoming Cricklewood and Brent Cross Regeneration Plan lest it affects us adversely.

There have been a number of reports of pilfering from plots, of which we take a very serious view. Site Security is a continuing concern and a drain on precious resources. Please be vigilant and keep the site gates locked (except during trading hours). A Hendon allotment site has recently suffered serious damage and theft from a vandal with a pick-axe!

The regulations concerning bonfires continue to apply – no bonfires May to September (except on the first Wednesday of June, July, August and September), nor in October until after 4pm. We are still receiving complaints of members flouting these rules, and of smoke drifting towards houses and onto Hendon Way. Barnet Council pays for no more than 3 skips per year and we are really struggling to cope with rubbish clearance. ***Skips may not be used for rubbish brought from outside, or for material that can be composted or burnt.***

If you are unable to cultivate your plot please cover it so that weeds do not get out of hand. Black polythene or ground cover is preferable to carpet, which can become embedded and difficult to remove. Please tell us *as soon as possible*, if you are unable to carry on: Barnet as a whole is now short of allotment plots to let. We ask you to keep paths clear, mown and at least 18" (1/2 metre) wide between plots. Dogs brought onto the site must be kept on a lead.

Our trading hut (open Saturday 2.30 – 4 pm; Sunday 10.30 – 12.00) has been restocked and we have a number of interesting new lines. Prices are being affected by inflation, and by China. The price of Growmore has risen steeply because of world demand. Market prices for canes have almost doubled, but we have minimised the effect through our stocks and keen early buying. 8ft canes have increased in price, but we have some 7ft canes at 20p each. The Dutch shallot crop failed because of the wet summer and onion sets too are in short supply. The rain also caused blight on tomatoes and potatoes last year: we are selling a product called Dithane, which seems to be an effective control, and we have seed of a tomato variety that may have some blight resistance.

Let's hope for a sunnier summer this year.

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. Membership Fees
8. Election Of Officers
9. Election of Committee
10. Election of Hon Auditor

11. Election of Life Members
12. Affiliations
13. Any other business

*Audited annual accounts will be available at the meeting