

## GOLDERS GREEN ALLOTMENT & HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

February 2010

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

Dear Member,

Your Association's Annual General Meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday 25th March in Claremont Free Church hall, behind Carey Hall, in Claremont Road, NW2 (between Pennine Drive and The Vale). Everyone welcome.

Last year vandals caused major works to re-roof and extend our trading hut. Roger Castle undertook this task, but unexpectedly found the walls to be unsound. The job became a major re-build costing thousands of pounds (for which the Association has saved for many years). We regret inconveniencing you when the trading hut was closed, but expect the new structure to serve a long time. Grateful thanks to Roger, to Harry Liddiard, and to all other helpers.

Aside from breaking into sheds and damaging fences, vandals have also raised several serious fires on our site, including one that destroyed the greenhouses where John Wingate used to raise plants for sale to members.

Our chairman, Bruno Rotti, died during the year and kind thoughts and wishes go to his family. We shall be electing a new chairman at the AGM, as well as other officers and committee members.

Last year we appealed for people to raise vegetable plants from seed for sale in the trading hut. **We urgently require additional people to take on this role.** We also need helpers for the Trading Hut rota, now that we are back in business, and people with mechanical and handyman skills. Can you assist?

The fight to save the Hendon Football Club site from re-development is ongoing. Barnet Council has given outline planning application for the so-called Cricklewood and Brent Cross Regeneration Scheme, but there is much opposition and the scheme has to be reviewed by Mayor Boris Johnson and also the Secretary of State.

Bonfires are only allowed between November and April, in October after 4pm, and on the first Wednesday of July, August and September. Some members who ignored these rules last year caused problems with our neighbours. The Council and the committee will take very strong action against offenders. That other people are doing so is no excuse. We also ask you:

1. to be vigilant and keep the site gates locked (except during trading hours) and to mark tools with your postcode
2. to cover your plot if you are unable to cultivate, so that weeds do not get out of hand
3. to tell us *as soon as possible*, if you are unable to carry on, as we have a waiting list for plots.
4. to keep paths clear, level, mown and at least 18" (1/2 metre) wide between plots
5. not to bring dogs onto the site without a lead.

In recent months the free composted green waste has proved very popular. We can only get deliveries mid-week and at roughly two-monthly intervals. Working members have rarely had a look in. Please leave some for them.

The range of Italian seeds that we introduced last year was a great success and we have added new items this year, including a courgette that is grown solely for its edible flowers, and a delicious melon cucumber (that needs a greenhouse). We commend the butter beans: they grow well on our site, but are rampant and need staking high. The weather last summer was unusual: members of the marrow family did not like it at all, and we received complaints about our sweetcorn seed. We had the latter tested by the supplier, who blamed the conditions and has replaced all remaining stocks with fresh seed. We have added Ferline, a blight resistant tomato, to our Mr Fothergill seed range alongside Black Russian and Sub-Arctic Plenty which also show some resistance.

The market price of fertilizers remains high. We have recently purchased stocks at good prices but still have to charge very much more than hitherto. We advise members to make as much use as possible of natural nutrients such as Groworganic and Chicken Manure Pellets, the prices of which have also risen, but are much more reasonable. We have recently found a new supplier for compost and manure. His products are good value and we hope you like them.

It has been a second hard winter. We hope a good growing season will follow.

Corona Esterhazy - Secretary

### AGENDA

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Apologies for absence   | 6. Alterations to Rules     | 11. Election of Life Members |
| 2. Minutes of previous AGM | 7. Membership Fees          | 12. Affiliations             |
| 3. Matters arising         | 8. Election Of Officers     | 13. Any other business       |
| 4. Annual report           | 9. Election of Committee    |                              |
| 5. Annual accounts*        | 10. Election of Hon Auditor |                              |

\*Annual accounts will be available at the meeting