

GGAA Newsletter 8 October 2020

Dear Plotholders,

At our October Committee meeting, on Zoom, this week some important issues arose, which we would like to share with you.

Bonfires

Unless people can be sensible about bonfires we will have to ban them completely!

Please read the following carefully and act accordingly.

- **Keep your fire small.** If you are able to use a dustbin sized incinerator please do so.
- **All fires must be attended.** Do not leave them burning after you have gone.
- **Only dry wood and dry plant waste can be burnt.**
- **NO plastic or anything that produces black smoke.**
- If anyone is seen with a fire with black smoke, they will be asked to put it out and get a warning. If there is a second occasion, they will be asked to quit their plot.
- No bonfires will be allowed on the East side of Hendon Way nor at the Tretawn allotment site because they are both too close to residential properties and or a major road. There are laws around nuisance bonfires and the Police and Barnet LA are able to issue fines especially around smoke affecting roads and traffic. If your plot runs along the Hendon Way, think very carefully about this!
- Because of Covid-19, we put in restrictions to suit these special circumstances and we are allowed to make changes to Barnet's basic rules for bonfires.
- For the winter 20/21 bonfires are only allowed:
 - Between October and February and **only** during daylight hours

Composting

Consider composting where ever possible and there are some useful websites

which offer help and advice on composting such as [the RSPB](#) and [The Royal Horticultural Society](#)

Padlocks:

At the moment the padlock on the Clitterhouse park gate has been tampered with and is stuck on and earlier this week the main gate padlock had been cut off so a temporary one has been put on. We are awaiting new padlocks to arrive. Can you please be vigilant as always about locking the gates after you arrive and leave and scramble the numbers. We are at a loss as to who, or why, other than to really annoy us all, someone keeps vandalising our locks. We have had the camera's updated and we are getting some additional camera's next week, then our CCTV will be complete and able to see everything!

Break-ins:

This week we had a break in and a few sheds were damaged and stuff was taken. No matter how much CCTV or good fencing one has if someone is intent on getting in they will, but it is better than it has been in previous years. So again we tell you not to lock your sheds and not to keep anything of any value in it.

Water and Loos

The water will be turned off on Monday 12 October 2020, and the Portaloo will be taken away on the same day.

Trading Hut

The hut is now open again on Sundays between 11.30am and 1pm. Please wear a mask when you go to the hut. We are always looking for volunteers to help open the hut throughout the year. Please let us know if you can do that.

Plot Inspection

We plan to do an end of season plot inspection at the end of October.

Rents

We took the decision not to increase the rent this year and you should expect your bill at the end of November for payment by 31st December 2020.

If, for whatever reason, you are not keeping your plot for 2021, please let us know asap as we have 69 people on the waiting list now!

Many thanks,
GGAA Committee
