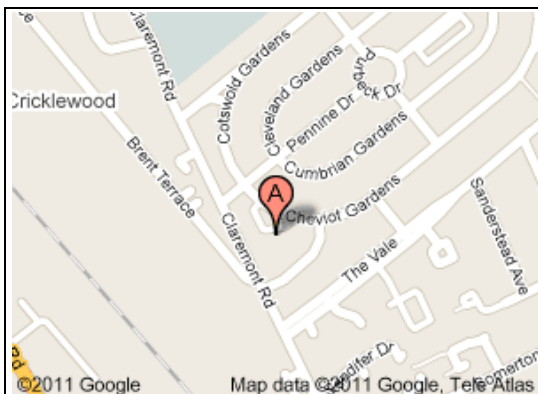


GOLDERS GREEN ALLOTMENT & HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

February 2011 Newsletter:



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th March 2011 - 8pm

Claremont Free Church hall, behind Carey Hall,
Claremont Road, NW2
(between Pennine Drive and The Vale)

**Please come and join us for a glass
of wine and meet other plot holders**

There are lots of issues to tell you about that need your input.

- Massive rent increases 2012.
- Taking over the site ourselves – Barnet Federation of Allotments working on our behalf to negotiate with Barnet – we need to know what you think about this.
- Municipal compost deliveries.
- Election of Officers – you may be interested in getting more involved.

Dear Member,

You may have seen in the media that (despite a big petition) **from 2012 Barnet Council are increasing rents threefold for Barnet residents and six fold for out-of-borough plot holders.** Yes, you read that correctly! This is a serious threat to our future. However there are questions as to the legality of such increases (which are being followed-up) and, more importantly, the Council has a hidden agenda in that it is trying to persuade allotment associations to assume self-management of their sites - in which event those associations would set their own rents. Allotment associations in the borough have jointly asked the Council to negotiate urgently with Barnet Federation of Allotments to devise a scheme of self-management that is fair and reasonable and will work well for all parties.

AGM: Officers will be elected at the AGM.

Current Officers are: Ken Brown Chair, Harry Liddiard Vice Chair, Audrie Brown Treasurer, John Bell and David Feldman Plot Secretaries, Janet Wickes Assistant Plot Secretary, David Raeburn Trading Officer, Secretary Corona Esterhazy,

Current Committee members are:

Susan Berry, Roger Castle, Grace Hansford, Mike Healey, Carole Nolan, Susie Ray, Rui Rosa, Linda Woodroffe. Maintenance Nick Jackson, Sara Bell Notice boards.

The committee can also co-opt members for one-off purposes or members with special skills: for example to form a sub-committee to fight rent increases and look at the self-management issue. You might not want to be an Officer or committee member but

might want to get involved in these other two important issues.

Free composted green waste that we have delivered at roughly two-monthly intervals is extremely popular but members who work during the week rarely get a look in. We cannot find a simple way of providing fair shares for all. **Any suggestions.**

Bonfires are only permitted between November and April, in October after 4pm, and on the first Wednesday of July, August and September. Every year some members forget these rules - they cause problems with our neighbours and provoke complaints to the Council. This is a political issue that could lead to a total ban.

Skips: We only get two skips a year for our whole site. Therefore we ask you to take rubbish away with you and put it in your bin at home, if possible. Please do not put anything that can be burnt or composted in our skip: it is for glass, plastic, mineral waste and similar. We are also managing to clear metal waste by separate means.

Security: There have been a number of break-ins to our site recently: frankly there is not a lot more that we can do about this. Please report any losses to the police. Do not leave valuable equipment on site and mark tools with your home postcode. Lock site gates when you come and go.

Plot Cleanliness: Please do not let weeds become a nuisance to your neighbours, and let us know promptly if you are giving up your plot: we have a long waiting list for plots. It is your responsibility to keep paths clear, level, mown and at least 18" (1/2 metre) wide. Main paths adjoining your plot need to be mown too. Trees planted on

plots can become a nuisance to other plot holders: if you have them it is your duty to prune them.

Trading Hut: We would like to sell more vegetable plants in the trading hut. Some were grown for us last year but we would welcome offers from other people to do this.

The trading hut is open from 2.30 - 4.00 on Saturday afternoons and from 10.30 - Noon on Sunday mornings. We have added some new items to our seed range including a selection of unusual radishes; Crown Prince Squash; Chinese Gooseberry; Celtuce and red Brussel Sprouts. We have a selection of tomato seeds that show some blight resistance.

Urgently Needed: We urgently need some extra people to man the Trading Hut on Saturday afternoons, and people to maintain garden machinery on a regular basis.

We had a particularly good growing season last summer with little tomato blight until quite late. However many people's potato crops were destroyed by freak flooding and frost early on.

We wish you success with whatever you plant. Our allotments are a precious and threatened resource, so please join us in taking care of them and helping in any way you can.

Corona Esterhazy - Secretary
Flat 2, 11 Parsifal Road,
London, NW6 1UG.



AGM AGENDA: 8pm Welcome, glass of wine and introductions.

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| 1. Apologies for Absence | 7. Membership Fees |
| 2. Minutes of previous AGM | 8. Elections of Officers |
| 3. Matters Arising | 9. Election of Committee |
| 4. Annual Report | 10. Election of Auditor |
| 5. Annual Accounts – Accounts will be available at the meeting. | 11. Election of Life Members |
| 6. Alterations to the Rules | 12. Affiliations |
| | 13. AOB |
| | 14. Date of next AGM |

Please note Association email address for any correspondence: **goldersgreenallotments@gmail.com**