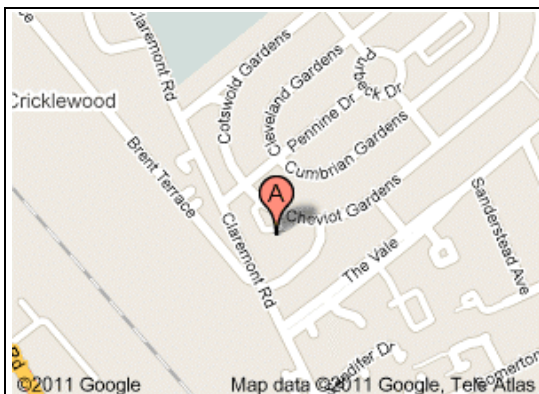


GOLDERS GREEN ALLOTMENT & HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

March 2012 Newsletter:



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 28th March 2012 - 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

- Up-date on Self-management.
- Financial Statement
- Trading Hut news
- Election of Officers and committee – are you interested

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Up-date on Self-management
3. Treasurer's report
4. Election of officers and committee members
5. AOB

Dear Member,

Self-management: at the Extraordinary General meeting last year, members unanimously authorised the committee to negotiate arrangements with Barnet. Based on much negotiation between Barnet's Federation of Allotments and Barnet Council, Barnet have just published detailed proposals and a model lease and asked sites to declare an interest to them, which we have done. Each site will have a site survey done by Barnet with members of our association present and once this has been done we will start to negotiate with Barnet on certain issues that affect our site. For

example who will have responsibility for all our perimeter fencing? This issue and others will need to be sorted out before we formally sign any agreements. Barnet have been very slow so far and we are of the opinion that realistically we probably won't sign any lease until much later in the year, even perhaps early 2013. We will up-date you as it progresses.

Rent Increase 2013: Last year Barnet threatened to put the rents up 6 fold and the Federation successfully fought that decision and Barnet had to withdraw their decision. However this year they plan to give us

notice that they intend rent increases from April 2013 by similar amounts **including** abolition of the age discount! If we agree to self-management we will be able to set our own rents and rules. The good news for this year is there is no increase in rent or water rates!

Payment of Rents: We had a few problems collecting the rents last year and plan on tightening-up our procedures. You will see the new guidelines in your rent letter enclosed in these papers. **Please read them properly and adhere to what the letter asks of you.**

If you are having any problems cultivating your plot please communicate with John Bell, one of the joint plot secretaries either by email at thebells@dial.pipex.com or by phone on 0207 624 0676 in the evenings.

AGM: The Officers and committee will be elected at the AGM on 30th March 2012. Please see the attached sheet showing the current officers and committee members and more information if you are interested.

Free Composted Waste: This is very popular and is usually delivered during the week. Unfortunately what happens is that people that are around during the week take it all and leave none for the people who come at the weekends. Please can you remember that there are an awful lot of other people who would like a few barrow full's!

Bonfire Reminder: Bonfires are permitted between November and April. After 4pm in October and on the first Wednesday of July, August and September. Please think very carefully before lighting a fire. Dense smoke and fumes are forbidden and if seen will be put out. Do NOT leave your fire unattended. Plot holders who persistently do this may be evicted. We get more complaints from our neighbour's about this than anything else!!

Skips: Removing rubbish from our site is very expensive and the Council have recently been refusing to empty our skip (which is only for glass, plastic, minerals and

similar). You should be composting all your green waste or you should take home and dispose of it.

Security: We've had serious problems with break-ins last year, which have resulted in major expenditure on repeatedly replacing gate locks. Intruders gained access to our Trading Hut and container as well as many of your sheds. We have been thinking about deterrents to make it harder to access our site and one idea is to plant a dense hedge of extremely prickly but wild life friendly native hedging. At the last committee meeting it was agreed that £100 could be spent but obviously the plot holders who are directly on the perimeters will be asked if they are happy for hedging to be planted. We plan to start with the fence at the Clitterhouse Park Gate end of the site.

Trading Hut: Great efforts have been made in the Trading Hut over the winter months to up-grade, re-fit and decorate it and many thanks to all those who have helped with this work. We also want to make a space where you can come and make yourself a cup of tea, especially in the busy months of the allotment year.

'Your Allotment' Magazine: This is a new monthly magazine for sites in North London and is on sale for £1.50 per copy. It's worth having a look and we were featured in it a few months ago.

Sunday 8th July – Summer BBQ: After the great success of last years BBQ and by popular request Jeremy has offered to organize one again this year. It was great fun last year and we hope you will be able to join us in July.

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Please feel free to email me on thebells@dial.pipex.com if you have any questions about anything.

Sara Bell, Chair

