

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007



ABOVE: the new ploholders work hard at clearing the ground BELOW: only four months on, rewards of all the efforts are ready to be harvested



New plots at Spring Hill

In April this year, six new plots have been created at the Spring Hill site, with the arrival of new fencing and a boundary change. The number of plots on the site is now an impressive 38.

The enthusiastic new plot holders worked wonders at a clean-up weekend in early May. Masses of glass, car parts, bricks, concrete - and crisp packets - were dug up and chucked, and nettles, brambles and ground elder were cleared. Since the first tomato plants were sown, progress has been awe-inspiring - raised beds have been built, paths paved and crop planted and tended with very impressive - and what must be satisfying - results for all ploholders at Spring Hill. Congratulations to everyone for their fantastic hard work.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- **MONDAY 1st OCTOBER 2007**
- **TIME:** 8pm (meeting commences)
- **VENUE:** St Mary's Community Centre, Defoe Road, Stoke Newington, London N16
- **How to get there by bus:** 73, 476 and 393 run along Stoke Newington Church Street. The hall is in Defoe Road, 25 metres from the junction at Church St.

Our AGM is a chance to meet other members and discuss matters you wish to raise. As usual there will be reports from the Chair and the Treasurer as well as Election of Officers and Plot Judging Awards 2007. Please send agenda items to Sue Carling, Secretary. Tea and Coffee will be provided.

No matter when you joined, membership subscription and plot rents must be paid by 1/10/07 or in person at the AGM.

Jackie Breakwell, the Treasurer, will be taking membership fees and plot rents between 7.30 and 8 pm. **NO CASH PLEASE**

There will be no rent increase this year. This means the society still has the lowest rent throughout all the London borough.

Rates in effect:

- £20 Full plot
- £12 Half plot and full plot concs
- £8 Half plot concessions
- £4 Membership (waiting list)

See p4 for more information

GARDENER'S CALENDAR - September's Top 10 Jobs

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Divide herbaceous perennials | 7. Keep up with watering of new plants, using rain or grey water if possible |
| 2. Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals | 8. Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so that they are ready for use in the autumn |
| 3. Dig up remaining potatoes before slugs spoil them | 9. Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting |
| 4. Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway | 10. Give evergreen hedges a final trim |
| 5. Reduce the frequency of house plant watering | |
| 6. Pick autumn raspberries | |

AUTUMN RASPBERRIES

By carefully selecting chosen cultivars an extended cropping season can be achieved. With simple protection fruits can be harvested through autumn until the first frosts.

RELIABLE CULTIVARS

The most reliable is heavy-cropping 'Autumn Bliss'. For something more unusual, try yellow-berried 'Fallgold',

which also makes a lovely jam.

EASY MAINTENANCE

Unlike summer-fruited cultivars, autumn raspberries fruit on the current season's canes. If planted in a sunny position the fruits ripen in late summer ready for picking, usually from September through to the first frosts. To maximise this yield it is necessary to cut all fruited canes to the ground in late winter. Because the canes are treated identically there is no need to have a permanent support system in which to tie new canes, as is done with

summer raspberries. The canes are simply planted in a row and allowed to develop into an informal thicket. The mature canes will need some support. Stray canes that pop up outside of the row should be pulled up when young.

EXTENDING THE SEASON

By covering canes with fleece or by growing them in a polytunnel, harvest can be extended into early winter.

Alternatively, for an extra crop in early summer consider only cutting half the fruited canes down to ground in late winter. Just tip back the remainder. These taller ones will then branch and produce raspberries around June to July. The new canes will still have sufficient space to grow up through and will crop in the autumn.

www.rhs.org.uk

WAITING LIST MEMBERS

We currently have a waiting list of 259. As the actual waiting time is almost impossible to predict the Secretary requests that you do not email her requesting more specific details. Actual offers are, of course, dependent on your stated site preferences.. The next lucky recipient is number 977 (depending on choice of site). The top 25 waiting list numbers are listed on the website. As the preference for plots in N16 is higher than in E5 sites, let the Secretary know if you wish to change your preferences.

We take the upkeep of plots very seriously, so please think hard whether you really do have the time and commitment to work a plot.



30% OFF ORGANIC SEED ORDER

Please contact Sarah Kissack, greenginger@blueyonder.co.uk, by the end of October if you're interested in taking part in a group order from the Organic Gardening Catalogue, www.OrganicCatalogue.com. If there are enough orders there will be a 30% discount. All orders must be sent off together and will be delivered to one address. You pay for your order with discount on collection from Sarah.



VACANT POST - Site representative

We currently need a site rep for St Kilda's to keep an eye on the plots on the site and liaise with the committee as necessary. Please help us to enable the work of the allotment society to continue.

MUCVER: a marrow recipe for when your courgettes get too big...

This is a Turkish recipe. Thanks to Fay Maschler who recently published it in the Guardian.

INGREDIENTS

- 500g marrow (about half a big one) skinned and de-seeded
- salt & black pepper
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 spring onions or 1 small onion, finely sliced
- 100g feta, grated
- 2 tablespoons fresh breadcrumbs
- fresh mint and parsley – a handful each, finely chopped
- seasoned flour
- Olive oil for frying

Grate the marrow, then put in a clean tea towel and wring out as much liquid as you can. Put in a bowl and add the eggs, grated cheese, breadcrumbs, onion, chopped herbs and season. Mix together - it should be fairly stiff. Form into small flattened balls and refrigerate for about an hour. Dust the balls with seasoned flour on both sides and fry in very hot oil in a frying pan, turning over to cook both sides. Drain on kitchen paper and serve.



Open days prove popular and winning plots have been selected

OPEN DAYS

All members were invited to attend the HAS open days and particularly for those on the waiting list it was a chance to visit their chosen sites and meet site representatives.

During the day, topics raised ranged from the inevitable - waiting time - to the practical like soil consistency, crop rotation, water preservation, slug control, security and composting. The visits also left a clearer picture of the kind of commitment an allotment really takes.

Aden Terrace Allotment Site, one of the big sites, proved to be very popular, and not even a thunderstorm could deter members from visiting Church Walk!

Next year we hope to attract even more interest. Remember - the Allotment Society wants to see all plots thrive, so come along and get advice or ideas.



ABOVE: Aden Terrace, N16 - one of the most visited sites on the open day. BELOW: a beautiful example of some of the produce grown on the allotment.

WINNING PLOTS

Also, as every year, site visits have taken place where committee members and site representatives inspect plots and award prizes based on creativity, variety of crops, most improved and productivity.

Well done to all winners, who will be announced at the AGM on 1st October.



PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE THIS NOTICE -
NO REMINDERS WILL BE SENT

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND PLOT FEES 2007/08

Membership subscription and plot rents must be paid by 1/10/07 or in person at the AGM. We have limited administration resources so please pay your fees promptly or risk losing your plot or place on the waiting list. **NEW MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE** it doesn't matter when in the year you joined. You need to renew by 1/10/07 or at the AGM, or risk losing your place on the waiting list.

Please complete the slip below and return it to H A S, c/o 41 Dynevor Road N16 0DL with your postal order or cheque made payable to: 'HACKNEY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'.



PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME & ADDRESS ARE WRITTEN ON
THE BACK OF THE CHEQUE.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

- I am happy to receive the HAS newsletters via e-mail:
- I enclose: £4 membership (waiting list)
 - £20 membership and rent full plot
 - £12 membership and rent concessionary rate
 - £12 membership and rent half plot
 - £8 membership and rent half plot concs rate

● I would like to stand for election to the following post:

● I would like the following to be discussed at the AGM:

HACKNEY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Maggie Wilkinson | 7249 5492
AndyRashleigh@aol.com

SECRETARY

Sue Carling | 7254 8351
suecarling@waitrose.com

TREASURER

Jackie Breakwell | 7249 2051

SITE REPS:

ADEN TERRACE

Martin Kluowicz | 8806 1968
kluowicz@hotmail.com

CHURCH WALK

June Lancaster | 7254 5756
june.lancaster@rubicon-benefit.com

LEASIDE

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Diana Whitworth
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OVERBURY STREET

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SPRING HILL

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SPRING LANE

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SPRINGDALE ROAD

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ST KILDAS

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WAITING LIST

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OTHERS

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