

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2011



Annual General Meeting, 5th Oct, 8pm

Reports, committee elections, plot awards winners and membership renewals

The HAS would like to invite you to the 2011 AGM. This is a chance to find out how the Society and the sites have been doing this year, to meet other members and the Committee, and provides an opportunity to raise issues of importance to you. So if you have an item you'd like to have addressed, please send a brief outline to the Secretary, secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk, so it can be included on the Agenda.

POSTS

It is with great regret that we have to announce the resignation of two of our most vital and engaged committee members - they are June Lancaster, Secretary and Jackie Breakwell, Treasurer. If you are interested in standing for election for either of these posts, either contact the secretary in advance of the meeting, or just put yourself forward on the day.

SITE VISITS

In July this year the annual site inspections took place. Their purpose

is to provide an overview of all sites, and to award prizes to individual ploholders based on creativity, variety of crops, most improved and productivity. Winners will be announced on the night.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

There will be no rent increase again this year, which means the society still has the lowest rent of all London boroughs.

Note that, no matter when you joined, membership fees and plot rents must be paid by 5/10/2011 or in person at the AGM. You will find

a renewal slip on the reverse of this newsletter - please attach this to your cheque.

It is your responsibility to ensure that membership fees are paid on time. The Committee is run by volunteers who cannot be expected to spend time chasing people for overdue payment. If payment isn't received promptly, you risk losing your place on the waiting list. *Refreshments will be provided*

WHERE & WHEN
WED 5TH OCTOBER, 8PM
(payments 7.30-8pm, no cash pls)
ST MARY'S COMMUNITY CENTRE
DEFOE RD, LONDON N16

LOOK AFTER YOUR PLOT!

USE IT OR LOSE IT - THE RULES ON NEGLECTED PLOTS ARE BEING TIGHTENED

As ploholders yourself, you know how long you had to wait for the privilege of having an allotment in Hackney. Allotment land in inner city areas is a scarce resource, and we are lucky in Hackney to have provision of 125 plots on 9 sites around the Borough, yet we still can't fulfil the demand for plots. Due to this, the waiting list has now been closed for some years.

As most members will know, the Society operates a neglected plot policy. Whilst in general this works reasonably well, there have been some instances of 'repeat offenders', whereby a ploholder improves the state of a plot following receipt of a neglected plot letter, but only in the short term - ie the improved state is not maintained. Under current rules, the Committee is obliged to repeat the entire (lengthy - at least 8 weeks from start to finish) process before the offender leaves and a plot can be handed on to a waiting list member.

The Committee is in discussion about how we can tighten up the rules to help tackle this problem. Allotments must be kept clean and maintained in a good state of cultivation. Paths on allotment sites should be kept clear for access. It simply isn't fair that members without plots are obliged to wait even longer because those ploholders who don't maintain their plots refuse to give them up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED!

If you would like to stand for Committee this year, here is what the posts involve:

SECRETARY: to attend monthly Committee meetings; be first point of contact for the Society; maintain database of membership; process membership enquiries/payments and lets; write and send letters as agreed by Committee; liaise with Council officers and other bodies in relation to matters affecting the Society

TREASURER: banking cheques, keeping accounts, sending receipts, compiling annual treasurer's report

Any thoughts on Hackney's wildlife?

Hackney Council would like to invite you to take part in the Hackney Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation that will be open until 24 October 2011.

Biodiversity is the range of wildlife around us and their habitats. This includes plants and animals. In an urban area such as Hackney, biodiversity also plays a vital role in cleaning our air, reducing the effect of the 'urban heat island' and helping to reduce flooding.

The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is about protecting and encouraging wildlife all across Hackney and also looks at how the built environment can be made more wildlife friendly.

All of the information about the BAP and consultation can be found at www.hackney.gov.uk/biodiversity-consultation.htm.

You can have your say by completing an online survey or the Consultation questionnaire and returning it to:

**BAP Consultation, Freepost LON 18819,
The Consultation Team, LB of Hackney,
Mare Street, E8 1EA.**

Any questions, please contact Kate Mitchell, Biodiversity Officer, London Borough of Hackney, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, E8 1DY, tel: 020 8356 3438; e-mail: kate.mitchell@hackney.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

30% OFF ORGANIC SEED ORDER

Sarah Kissack is doing another group order from the Organic Gardening Catalogue, which will give discounts of up to 30%. You can access the Organic Gardening Catalogue at www.organiccatalogue.com or phone 01932 253666 for a paper copy. If you want to participate, email Sarah the details of your order to sarah.kissack@uwclub.net or give her a paper copy at the AGM or post to 25 Listria Park, Stoke Newington, London N16 5SW by the end of October. You pay for your order with relevant discount on collection from her at address above, usually in January, unless the total is not enough to qualify for discount in which case she'll let you know so everyone can order separately. Please email or call Sarah on 07754 095062 if you have any queries.

HAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR

Penny Miller - pmshrink@yahoo.com

VICE CHAIR

Henrietta Soames - 8809 4725

SECRETARY

June Lancaster - secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk

TREASURER

Jackie Breakwell - 7249 2051

SITE REPRESENTATIVES

ADEN TERRACE

Vikki Yapp - 7923 1816

CHURCH WALK

June Lancaster - 7254 5756
junelancaster@rubicon-benefit.com

LEASIDE ROAD

Guy Dehn,
Diana Whitworth - dianawhitworth@aol.com, and Jack Eldon - 8806 7246

OVERBURY STREET

Anna Harding - anna@modrex.com, and Amanda Scope - ascope@mac.com

QUEENSBRIDGE ROAD

Phillip Turner - pturner@ahmm.co.uk

SPRING HILL

Jessica Datta - j.datta@blueyonder.co.uk, Phillip Pearson - phillip.pearson@blueyonder.co.uk, and Emily Mytton - emilymytton@yahoo.com

SPRING LANE

Simon Hughes - samphire66@yahoo.co.uk

SPRINGDALE ROAD

Annie Wilson - 7254 0972 - vellalawilson@yahoo.com

ST KILDA'S ROAD

Henrietta Soames - 8809 4725



Complete the slip below and return it to: June Lancaster, HAS, 50 Milton Grove, Stoke Newington, London N16 8QY with your postal order or cheque made payable to 'HACKNEY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY' by 5/10/11 or bring it in person to the AGM.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ARE WRITTEN CLEARLY ON THE BACK OF THE CHEQUE



HAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & PLOT FEES 2011/12

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

email: _____

I ENCLOSE:

£4 membership (waiting list)

£20 m'ship and rent (full plot)

£12 m'ship and rent concs

£12 m'ship and rent (half plot)

£8 m'ship and rent concs (half plot)

please send me the HAS newsletter via e-mail

please provide proof of status for concessions

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

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