

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2014



The 2014 Annual General Meeting

Reports, seasonal advice, committee elections,
plot awards winners and membership renewals

All members of Hackney Allotment Society are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on 1st October. This year we are trying to add some interest to the AGM by having a speaker to inspire us to make the most use of our plots even during the dormant season when all we can think of doing is reading seed catalogues.

SPEAKER
STEPHANIE IRVINE, FROM CAPITAL GROWTH AND GROWING COMMUNITIES, HACKNEY, TO TALK ON MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR ALLOTMENT OVER THE WINTER, AND WILDLIFE GARDENING

to be brought into balance. We consider this to be a responsible way of managing the financial resources of the Society. Members may not be aware that our rental and membership fees are among the lowest of all allotment societies in London. The NSALG estimate that most allotment rents in England are between £25 and 125 p/a.

PLOT RENTAL FEE

The committee is proposing that the plot rental fees be increased which has not been done since about 2004, when it went up by £4 per plot. Over the past few years, our annual income from plot rentals has not matched our annual expenditure in allotment sites. That expenditure includes rent to Hackney Council, water rates, and maintenance of sites which is governed by the amount of work needed to be done. The largest element of this is tree pruning, but it also includes repairs to water systems, fences, security issues, rubbish removal. The shortfall is about £1500 per year. The site inspections this past June has shown that there is still more work to be done to improve the safety of sites and the ease of access around the sites. The Committee is thus proposing that the plot rental fee should be increased by £5 per year for each of the next three years to bring annual income and expenditure on sites

PROPOSAL

THAT PLOT RENTAL FEES BE INCREASED

Members may wonder why such an increase is needed when the Society has significant reserves. These reserves represent the remainder of a grant given to the Society many years ago for development work of both existing sites and new ones. However, most of the expenditure of these funds has related to on-going maintenance, and the Committee now thinks that it would be prudent to set aside £12,000 of these reserves for appropriate development work – one off projects that provide a permanent improvement to a site or a development to increase the number of plots available, the necessity of which was indicated during the site inspections. By setting aside funds as a Development Fund, we think that this would be a way of ensuring that future plot holders would benefit from this fund and not just present ones being subsidised by its use.

WAITING LIST

Members will recall that the 2008 AGM closed the waiting list to new members because there were so many already on the list that the length of time new joiners would have to wait would be unfair. There are now 50 people on the waiting list. On average over the past few years (with the exception of 2013 when only two people were offered plots), eight to ten new plots have been let annually. The Committee thinks that the waiting list could be reopened, with information being given to new applicants, leaving it for them to decide whether they want to pay the very modest membership fee for five or more years before getting a plot. As it was the AGM which agreed to the closure of the waiting list, the Committee thinks that it should be the AGM to agree to re-open it.

BUSINESS
REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF 2014, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, PRESENTATION OF BEST PLOT AWARDS

Lastly, please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure your annual fees are paid on time. If they are not, you will be charged an additional administration fee and you risk losing your plot or your place on the waiting list.

WHERE & WHEN

WED 1ST OCTOBER

DOORS OPEN 7PM (PAYMENTS 7-7.30PM, NO CASH PLS)

ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOMS, STOKE NEWINGTON CHURCH ST, N16

(JUST PAST THE TOWN HALL TOWARDS GREEN LANES, OPPOSITE CLISSOLD PARK)

PAYING MEMBERSHIP FEES AND PLOT RENT FOR 2014/15

All fees are due to be paid before or at the AGM on the 1st October, and it would be a great help if you could meet this deadline. If you do not, there is now a £1 late payment fee that will be due in addition to membership and plot rental.

HOW TO PAY ELECTRONICALLY

This is the process used to pay from a Smile account; different banks may have slightly different processes:

- Select 'Pay Bills' option
- Bill type 'Other'
- Recipient organization 'HAS'
- Reference from your bill '[your name]'
- Recipient account number 65555383
- Recipient sort code 089299

Please ensure that you use YOUR NAME as the REFERENCE on the payment, not any reference number given to you. We need to know whose rent/membership is being paid, otherwise we will chase you for non-payment. If you pay electronically, no receipt will be posted to you as you will already have a record of the payment. There is also no need to complete and post the form below, but please email nancylkorman@hotmail.co.uk with any changes in contact details or AGM business

you would like discussed, including if you would wish to stand for any office.

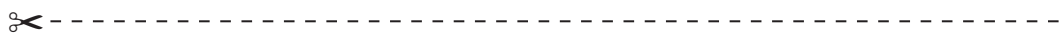
If you use **telephone banking**, you can pay that way using the HAS account details above.

HOW TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER

If you do not use electronic banking then please complete the slip below and return it to Nancy Korman, 21 Northchurch Terrace, London N1 4EB with your cheque or postal order made payable to HACKNEY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY by 1/10/14 or bring it in person to the AGM.

NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE BACK OF THE CHEQUE PLEASE.

You will receive confirmation of payment by email if possible, or by post if requested. Paper receipts will also be available on request at the AGM.



HAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & PLOT FEES 2014/15

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 provide proof of status for concessions*

To keep costs down, all communication from HAS will be by email unless you tick this box to receive paper copies by post

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

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



HAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR

Penny Miller -
pmshrink@yahoo.com

VICE CHAIR

Hilarie Kerr

SECRETARY

Nancy Korman -
secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk

TREASURER

Hugh Naylor



SITE REPRESENTATIVES

ADEN TERRACE

Vikki Yapp

CHURCH WALK

John Clarke and
Maggie Wilkinson

LEASIDE ROAD

Diana Whitworth and
Jack Eldon

OVERBURY STREET

Jane Hough and
Amanda Scope

QUEENSBRIDGE

ROAD
Phillip Turner

SPRING HILL

Phillip Pearson and
Jason Cole

SPRING LANE

Simon Hughes and
Helen Bishop

SPRINGDALE ROAD

Rosanna Preston

ST KILDA'S ROAD

Henrietta Soames

