

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2004

Site Visits and Plot Judging

This summer the Committee is planning to carry out its annual site inspections in the early evening of Wednesday 4th August. The Committee will also be judging plots and the winners will be announced at the AGM. (This is not a serious competition but a bit of fun, which we hope encourages plot holders in their endeavours).

The Committee is happy to meet any plot holders on site on the evening of 4th August. Please remember to check with your site rep though if rain is threatening, as last year's visits were postponed by bad weather.

Sites Open Day

Sunday 15th August, 2pm to 5pm

As promised in the Spring Newsletter, the Society plans to hold a Sites Open Day to coincide with National Allotment Week (August 9th to 15th).

We have decided to test the water this year by inviting members, their families and friends to visit our sites, have a closer look at the plots and meet some allotment holders.

Please note the date in your diary, especially all you waiting list members who are eager for a plot. This is your chance to wet your appetite for allotment gardening.

The following Sites are participating in this event, for other (small sites) please contact the site rep to check before visiting.

ADEN TERRACE N16
SPRINGDALE RD N16
CHURCH WALK N16
SPRING HILL E5
LEASIDE E5

Soil Testing

This spring, the London Borough of Hackney, Environmental Services carried out a programme of soil testing on our allotment sites. This is standard good practice in public spaces where contamination risks may exist, allotments being a prime example with regard to food production. An independent consultant carried out the testing during early May. Thanks to all the site reps who assisted with access. We expect to receive the results shortly and will be meeting with the environmental health officer commissioning the work, in order to fully understand any implications for plot holders. We will of course share his report with members as soon as possible.

The Concerns raised about the implications of the soil testing have been widely discussed at Committee. Remember, this is for our long term benefit. It is not the first time testing has been carried out on

some of our sites, so records are available to which we can refer. It did however lead to some Members doing some interesting historical research on the history of the land we currently occupy.

Allotment News Via E-mail

If you would like to receive your Newsletter via e-mail (and remember this saves us postage and printing costs), please send you email address to:

newsletter@hackneyallotments.org.uk

Greater London Allotments Forum

A further Allotment Conference is being held in July at City Hall and a member of the Committee will be attending on behalf of the Society. The GLAF Steering Group has been working since last autumn on developing a representative body for allotments in Greater London. This can only be good news in extending our public voice and for the future protection and promotion of allotments in the City.

Waiting List Members....

There has been lots of interest in joining the Society this season and as a result the waiting list has now reached 101! This shows how much demand there is for allotment provision in Hackney.

Members often ask me how long and it is hard to estimate the length of wait on the list as the number of plots coming up for let each year varies. The preference for

plots in N16 is much higher than the E5 sites so bear this in mind and let Sue, the Secretary know if you wish to change or extend your preferences. Contact: secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk

Plot holders please remember, plots are very much in demand and if you really don't have the time or commitment to work your plot please be fair to those on the waiting list.

Hoxton Manor Allotment Site

Some of you may have visited the recent allotment exhibition at Homerton Library or seen the publicity. Hoxton Manor is a recently developed new site in Walthamstow. The name is somewhat misleading for those of us familiar with Hoxton in Hackney. Plots are all taken now but the site is maintaining a waiting list and is interested in hearing from those who might be prepared to travel to Walthamstow (close to the Stadium). Contact: David Spicer 020 8531 3178.

What's Happening on Your Allotment - Early July

Now the gardening bit... high season now and plot holders will already be enjoying the fruits (and veg!) of their labour.

New potatoes are ready for harvest The last of the broad bean crop (if you survived the black fly) will be making way for transplants of Autumn and over wintering crops.

July is the month of soft fruit picking, gooseberries, strawberries, black and red

currants and loganberries are at their best now and ready for harvest, and eating or preserving.

Fresh salad crops should be in abundant

supply with fresh pea's beans and beetroot to enjoy.

Happy Harvest... makes all the hard work worth while doesn't it!
