

Hackney Allotment Society

www.hackneyallotments.org.uk

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2006

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER 2006

TIME: 8pm (meeting commences)

**VENUE: St Mary's Community Centre
Defoe Road**

Stoke Newington, London N16

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.

The Treasurer will be taking membership fees and plot rents between 7.30 and 8 pm.

NO CASH PLEASE

New rates in effect from 1st October 2006:

£16 Full plot

£8 Half plot and concessions

£4 Membership

Please send agenda items to Sue Carling, Secretary. 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 2006. **Tea and Coffee will be provided.**

A question for discussion at the AGM

At the plot judging, many plots were observed to be neglected or underused. Due to the large waiting list **should we change the neglected plot policy and reduce the time frame to 6 weeks and one warning letter, before a notice to quit is issued?** Site reps will make all efforts to help plot-holders avoid eviction. Extenuating circumstances will always be taken into account.

Come along and share your view.

Organic seed order – Sarah Kissack

I'm happy to do a group order from the Organic Gardening Catalogue, which means we'll get a discount of up to 30% depending on the total value of the order. All orders must be sent off together and delivered to one address. You can access the Organic Gardening Catalogue at www.OrganicCatalogue.com or phone 0845 130 1304 for a paper copy. I will need details of your order, so please either bring to the AGM or send your completed order form electronically to greenginger@blueyonder.co.uk / hard copy to address below. If you submit your order form via the website or in hard copy separately it will not qualify for the group discount. I'll need to pay in full, which I'll do

on my credit card, and then you pay for your order with relevant discount on collection from me at 25 Listria Park N16 5SW. There's usually someone in after 6.30pm, or you could ring to confirm weekends or 9.30am-3pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Please let me know details of any order you would like to make by the end of October. I will either confirm I've sent it off and let you know when it arrives, or let you know the total is not enough to qualify for discount so more convenient for each of us to do separately.

September tasks on your allotment

- ◇ Sow fast maturing varieties of spring cabbage, turnip, spinach, winter lettuce, oriental vegetables and overwintering onion seed (both salad and bulb types).
- ◇ Plant overwintering onion sets and garlic bulbs in late September.
- ◇ Spring cabbages sown last month are probably ready for planting out. Cover with netting to stop the pigeons.
- ◇ Dig up potatoes before slug damage becomes a problem. Leave to dry for two to three hours before storing.
- ◇ Regularly pick fast maturing vegetables: French beans, runner beans, courgettes, cucumbers and tomatoes, to prevent them becoming tough and encourage further crops.
- ◇ Pick remaining outdoor tomatoes by the end of the month to ripen indoors.
- ◇ Aubergines may still be cropping in the greenhouse. Pick them once the fruits have coloured, but before the skins start to wrinkle.
- ◇ Lift onions and shallots once the foliage has started to die back. Do not be tempted to bend over the tops by hand as this can reduce storage time. Allow them to dry on the soil surface if weather permits, otherwise in a well-ventilated shed. Thick-necked onions should be used as they may rot.
- ◇ Harvest sweetcorn as it becomes ripe. Push a fingernail into the kernel as the tassels start to shrivel and brown. If the liquid is milky, they are ready.
- ◇ Harvest remaining globe artichokes now, before the buds start to open.
- ◇ Marrows, pumpkins and squashes may be ready for harvesting. Leave them in the sun, or in a greenhouse, to let the skins harden and dry off, before storing them in a cool, dry, dark place.
- ◇ When asparagus foliage turns brown, it is time to cut it down. Take care of the spines, and give the plants a good mulch afterwards.
- ◇ Earth up celery for the final time this month, leaving a tuft of foliage sticking out of the trench or collar to blanch the stems. Self-blanching types are less hardy, and should be harvested before the first frosts. Trench cultivars can be left in the ground.
- ◇ Irregular watering can lead to problems with blossom end rot on tomatoes, splits in root vegetables, pea and bean flowers aborting, checked growth on winter squash and pumpkins. Help prevent this by watering during dry spells.
- ◇ Sow green manures, such as mustard and Italian ryegrass, to prevent autumn weeds establishing and to act as a soil improver once dug in during winter or spring. Alternatively, place black plastic over bare ground after clearing old crops to suppress weed growth.

www.rhs.org.uk

Hackney Allotment Society committee

Chair	Maggie Wilkinson	7249 5492	chair@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Secretary	Sue Carling	7254 8351	secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Treasurer	Jackie Breakwell	7249 2051	
Site Reps:			
Aden Terrace	Martin Klucowicz	8806 1968	adenterrace@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Church Walk	June Lancaster	7254 5756	churchwalk@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Leaside	Ian Dick	8985 4729	leaside@hackneyallotments.org.uk
	Lou Crisfield		
Overbury Street (Vice Chair & Newsletter)	Sarah Mott	8986 2920	overbury@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Queensbridge	Keith Osborne		queensbridge@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Spring Hill	Eugene Clerkin	8985 5008	springhill@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Joint reps	Joss Bany	8806 6782	
Spring Lane	Gavin Everall		springlane@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Springdale Road	Annie Wilson	7254 0972	springdale@hackneyallotments.org.uk
St Kildas	VACANT		
Others	Mary Connolly		maryconnolly@blueyonder.co.uk
	Guy Dehn		guydehn@mac.com

Site rep VACANT POSTS

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND PLOT FEES 2006/07

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

Membership subscription and plot rents must be paid by 1/10/06; 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 1/10/06 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'.

YOUR NAME & ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF THE CHEQUE.

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

- **I am happy to receive the allotment 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 concessionary rate**

- **I would like to stand for election to the following post:** _____
- **I would like the following issue(s) to be discussed at the AGM:**