

General Information

The West Wickham Allotments Limited (WWAL) site is at Hawes Lane, West Wickham. It is 7.9 acres and has 215 plots, mostly about 125sqm in size. Some plots are larger, some smaller, and some are divided into half plots. The Hawes Lane Site began in 1912 and it is leased to us by Bromley Council. WWAL is a Member of the National Allotments Society (NAS) and of the Bromley Allotments and Leisure Gardens Federation (BALGF).

WWAL is self-managed by the Association Committee, members of which are elected annually at the AGM held in November. The Committee is responsible for the management and general maintenance of the site and for ensuring that plots are maintained to a satisfactory standard.

The Committee also organises social activities – we usually have a summer barbecue, Open Day and Christmas drinks. Local school groups make visits to the site.

The 2020-21 Committee members are:

Chairman: Tony Ault; Secretary: Vivien Milnes; Treasurer: Phil Johnson; Trading Secretary: Keith Meredith; Lettings Officer: Paul Rispoli; Buildings Maintenance: Ron Bates, Dave Sansom. Members: Liz O'Sullivan (Assistant Trading Secretary), Sarah Chant, Gareth Sharpe, Andrew Stebles.

The Committee meets bi-monthly and welcomes the views of members who hopefully will actively participate in WWAL. We are extremely reliant on member's assistance in maintaining our site and buildings. The Committee can be contacted at wwallotmentsecretary@hotmail.com (general matters) or wwallotmentlet@hotmail.com (all matters relating to Lettings).

NAS magazines and other reference books are kept in the Trading Shed for members to borrow or refer to. The Notice Board and Members' Information Folder provide information of interest. You will also find a selection of recipes which can be purchased at modest cost – giving you great ideas about how to use up your endless supply of produce! Worthwhile reference books to purchase include The Allotment Handbook by Caroline Foley and The Vegetable Expert by D G Hessayon – available at good booksellers or on line.

All members receive a copy of our Allotments Tenancy – Terms & Conditions, which is laid down by Bromley Council, and our Constitution and Rules of WWAL. The success of our Site and the enjoyment of allotment tenancy depend on everyone observing these rules.

Amenities

Gentlemen's and Ladies' toilets are situated on plot J13. Please note the instructions for use.

We have very few incidences of vandalism on our site and this is attributed to the lack of sheds, greenhouses or other structures that are not allowed on individual plots. Fruit cages above 1.5 metre high are permitted with written agreement from the Committee. We have lockers that are available for a rent of £6 pa.

Trading Shed Shop

Our Trading Shed Shop is open from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Sunday mornings and is managed by Keith Meredith with support from Liz O'Sullivan and a team of volunteers. Plot holders can purchase seeds, fertilisers, gardening equipment and sundries at discounted prices. Members can place annual orders for seed potatoes, seeds and other items at a discount. Non-plot holders can use the Trading Shed by joining as Garden Members for £2.00 pa.

Some important notes to remember

Here are a few of the most important rules and general practices.

- We have 3 pedestrian gates and one main vehicle gate. Please ensure that you lock gates immediately after entering and leaving the Site, except Sundays from 10.00am to 1.00pm.
- The speed limit on site is 5 mph. There is a one-way system and no waiting on the exit roads. Please park your vehicle in the designated parking areas or on the verge so that others can pass.
- Bonfires are permitted from 1 October to the 31 March; please see separate guidance on our website.
- During the season, mains water is provided via the tanks and from the taps situated at various points around the site. Hosepipes are not allowed under any circumstances.
- Wheelbarrows are available at various points on the Site for use only on the Site. Please return them to the storage point when you have finished with them.
- The pathways are mown by volunteers. Please make sure that there are no overhanging obstructions e.g. branches from bushes or blackberries, or stakes or canes on the pathways. It is your responsibility to define, trim and maintain the edges of your plot, which should be no less than approx. 2 inches deep. Our Public Liability Insurance policy requires that plot edges and pathways must be properly maintained.
- If you bring children on to the site, please keep them under your immediate control and do not let them enter other tenants' plots or run/cycle along the paths and roads. Please do not underestimate the danger of them falling off a path into sharp/glass objects on an allotment plot. Likewise, dogs should be kept on your plot whilst you are working it.
- Members are not permitted to bring an extensive amount of building materials, pallets, or decking on site. Tyres are NOT permitted on plots. If in doubt, please check your plans with a Committee member.

Plot Inspections

Whole-site plot inspections are conducted three or four times a year by a panel of plot inspectors. They advise the Committee of plots that are not being maintained to a satisfactory standard, i.e. edges not being maintained or no regular weeding being carried out, no or little planting and harvesting of crops. Unfortunately, tenancy may be terminated where a plot has been allowed to fall into a state of neglect so please inform us if there is any reason that you are unable to attend your plot over a period of time.

Helping each other and the environment

If you are taking on a plot for the first time, please don't hesitate to ask for any advice (though you may always find different advice from different people!). The internet is full of useful information, especially the RHS and 'Grow Your Own' sites. Don't worry if it takes you some time to get the plot under control – you can always keep down weeds by covering part of the plot until you are ready to work it. We suggest that you don't spend large amounts of time making raised beds, paths, compost heaps, benches etc. at the expense of getting crops going – nothing will motivate you more than sampling your home-grown fruit and vegetables, not to mention the flowers which can brighten up the plot and your home.

Members who have surplus plants or crops can advertise them on the Notice Board or give them to the Trading Shed for sale. Proceeds are donated to our chosen charity, St Christopher's Hospice.