



West Wickham Allotments Ltd

www.wwallotments.org.uk

Newsletter – March 2024

Notes from the Trading Shed

Thanks to everyone who helps out in the shop on a Sunday (only open between 10.30am and 12.30pm so that we volunteers can get home to cook Sunday lunch and maybe even get a bit of gardening done!) and to those who help with deliveries.



We've had one delivery from our new supplier in Chester and thanks to Ian and his team it went well. I placed an order for a lot of composts and other supplies at the end of last week, and expect it to arrive next week. Ian will put out a message for help on the WhatsApp group, so please do volunteer your time if you are able to. If enough people help, it can all be done in half an hour and you'll all feel virtuous knowing that you're helping to keep the shop open.

All the potatoes have now sold, which is great news for us because it means we didn't lose any money on them. If there's a variety you'd like us to get hold of for next year let us know and we'll see if it's available.

I've placed an order for more Country Value and Johnson's seeds to go on the carousel in the shop and am hoping to offer them at similar prices to last years. Yung Min will let you all know when the seeds are in.

We're always delighted to see you in the shop and as you no doubt know, take cash and card. If you want to pay cash can you just bear in mind that we have very limited change so paying for an 80p packet of seeds with a £20 note makes life so difficult for us. Thanks.

Happy gardening.

Liz and Viv

Social events

Sunday coffee and bacon butty mornings will restart on the 7th April with the first one aimed at welcoming new plot holders. We hope you will come and meet fellow allotmenters and ask any questions you might have. We will put out a full list of future dates soon along with other social events.



Lyn Eustace

Lettings officer

Just to let everyone know after many years dedicated service Paul Rispoli has stepped down as Lettings Officer and I will be taking over this role. The contact e-mail remains the same: wwallotmentlet@hotmail.com

We would like to thank Paul for all his efforts over the years and following his suggestion we will simplify the renewals process next year and ask people just to send payment rather than fill in a new lease agreement. If you have a change of any details such as address, email or phone number please let us know as we need to have up to date information.

We currently have 7 full plots available and 7 half plots.

Peter Eustace



From the Secretary's desk

Thank you to everyone that attended the AGM last month. We had a good turnout, maybe due to the free beverage, and gained 4 new volunteers for the Committee. An overview of all the things the Committee has achieved over the past year and the state of the Allotments' finances was discussed. An item on the agenda was to debate and decide on whether bonfires should be allowed on the Allotments and the online voting and voting at the meeting agreed that bonfires should still be allowed. Please see below the notes from Peter on this.

On another matter, I had a query from a new plot holder regarding using hoses on the Allotment. Hoses are banned on Allotments by Thames Water and this is a good thing as we pay for all the water used by the allotments. The taps will be turned on again at the end of March (weather permitting) so please make sure that these are not left on so that no water is wasted.

Please come up and have a look round the Trading Shed and while you're there join the Allotment WhatsApp group as this is full of interesting information.

A big thank you to everyone who turned up to help clear up of the hedge was cut. Doesn't it look lovely!

Viv



Bonfires

At the AGM it was decided that we would continue with the present arrangements and allow bonfires. However the topic raised some discussion with many people concerned about pollution and the effect bonfires have on other plot holders and neighbours.

So just a reminder that bonfires are only allowed from 1st October until 31st March.

Insurance requirements say the following reasonable precautions shall be taken on each occasion when there is burning of debris by you or any of your Members:

- i. Fires must be in a cleared area and at a distance of at least nine metres from any property outside the boundary of the allotment site or from any property belonging to the Company or of any other member insured.
- ii. Fires shall not be left unattended at any time.
- iii. A suitable fire extinguisher or water shall be kept available for use as soon as reasonably possible.
- iv. Fires shall be extinguished at least one hour prior to leaving the site.

Also there are some good neighbour guidelines:

- i. All Members at the Hawes Lane Site are responsible for any fire they light and the consequences of any damage or injury caused by that fire.
- ii. On no account must materials of any kind be brought to the Hawes Lane Site for burning.
- iii. Fires must not be started on Sunday mornings, as this is a time when many people will be working their plots.
- iv. Avoid burning at weekends and on Bank Holidays and especially on days where neighbours may be sitting in their gardens.
- v. Do not light a fire when weather conditions will cause problems. Fires should be lit only when the wind is light and steady and in a direction which will cause the least annoyance, and never when the wind is blowing towards neighbouring houses or onto Glebe Way.
- vi. Extinguish the fire immediately if it is causing or likely to cause any nuisance to adjacent residents or other plot holders or if smoke is likely to impair visibility for traffic on Glebe Way.
- vii. Never add household rubbish, plastic or similar synthetic or rubber materials to the fire. Do not use engine oil or other sump oil to start the fire.
- viii. Ensure any children are kept well away from the fire and check that no wildlife has taken shelter among the materials to be burned.
- ix. Ensure all material to be burnt is completely dry to avoid smoke
- x. Be aware of any nuisance to other plot holders and avoid a fire if plot holders are working on adjacent plots.

Peter Eustace