

Hook Allotment Association

NEWSLETTER – Late Summer 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our late summer newsletter, I hope you all enjoyed the brief reprieve from watering last week and had a well-earned rest.

We had a lovely spring plant sale in May and I must say, the outdoor Gherkins (brought at the sale) are producing so many we are on our second kilogram of pickling. It's a good opportunity to buy unusual plants like Lemon grass and Didicus blue lace for very little while helping a good cause...us! We would like to thank the plot holders who helped run the stall this year and those who donated plants. We made a fantastic £113.90, which went towards maintaining wayward plots on the site.



From the great to the unwelcome, following our break-in, we had a lovely flutter of thank you from plot holders who were grateful to the small core team who helped get the site up and running again. It is lovely to be appreciated at a stressful time indeed at any time.

Now the taps have been replaced and the water is back on, please be mindful of how much water you personally are using. We are on a water meter and as such, are having to shoulder a huge burden of usage as the weather is so demanding. If you look at the grass on site you will see it never browned, unlike the grass at home, so there is still water in the ground. The impact of water usage will have a bearing with our budget setting next year.

Finally, we would welcome more help from you the plot holder either with joining the committee or offering to do listed jobs on site. Please email us to offer help, we have a range of jobs from painting wood preserver on the toilet shed and benches to pruning fruit trees. The more you help the less we have to buy in services, saving us all money.

We are actively trying to reduce the amount of broken plastic and rubbish left on plots to reduce the cost of clearance. Please see the rule changes below. Please be aware of the amount of "homes" you are providing for vermin by keeping stuff on your plot. The gate plant tables were recently cleared of rubbish. Do not treat this area as a dumping ground for your waste, it costs us and you money and time to get rid of.

We have a close working relationship with both allotment neighbours and as such we have been asked to be vigilant for unusual cars /people using the turning circle and allotment track. Someone has been jumping over the fence using the field area as a toilet and leaving toilet paper and their deposit in the field. If you notice anything please email us at info@hookallotments.com

Kind regards
Emma Checksfield

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RULE CHANGE

There have been several requests for greenhouses to be erected on plots. Due to the high winds we have on the site, the committee has taken a decision that greenhouses will no longer be allowed. Broken glass on the site is a very serious problem to all. The committee has also agreed that we need to reduce the amount of plastic that is used and then left on the site. When plot-holders leave, we are often left with the difficult and time consuming job of clearing plots and plastic items are a concern because they have to be disposed of. A wooden shed can be burned if it cannot be re-used, but we cannot do this with plastic items. This ends up costing the HAA money to have plastic waste removed from the site.

We hereby give notice that the following rule will be amended to reflect this in the **Hook Allotment Association Allotment Rules**. Version 6 – July 2017.

4.14 4.14.1 No shed, greenhouse, polytunnel or other similar structure shall be erected on an Allotment Garden without the prior written approval of the Committee. – **The word greenhouse will be removed.**

4.14.1.1 Requests to erect a shed or similar structure will be judged on a case by case basis. The applicant must provide a plot layout showing the location of the proposed shed/structure. The committee will take into account the effect on surrounding areas and the thoughts of the adjacent plot holders. The suggested maximum size of a shed is 6" x 4" or 7" x 5" for large plots. If the adjacent plot holders have no objections, larger structures may be permitted. However, the height will not exceed 7.6".

Once written consent has been received, the applicant has six months to erect the shed. No permanent footings or bases may be constructed. The shed can be painted any colour. **Plastic sheds of any colour are also permitted. – This sentence will be removed.**

A deposit of £30.00 will be taken on approval of a shed application and will be returned if the shed is removed from the plot or a shed in a serviceable condition, is emptied when the plot is vacated.

This rule will come into effect 56 days from date of notice given. Any plot holder who currently has a greenhouse or a plastic shed will not be asked to remove. No future requests for a greenhouse or plastic shed will be approved.

LOTTERY

A big 'THANK YOU' to all plot holders who have purchased tickets from the Hart Lottery. So far, the HAA has 15 tickets entered into each draw. This will provide us with an annual income of £390. This amount of money is equivalent to us letting either 2 large plots, 4 standard plots, 8 small plots, or 14 mini's. This year we have been able to put this money

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towards clearing the wayward plots, and return these to the grass cutting schedule or cover, which has benefited all of us on the site.

If you wish to join in then please log on to the website at <https://www.hart.gov.uk/hart-lottery>. Good luck to all who have entered!

FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

The Hook flower and Produce Show takes place this year on Sunday 9th September from 2-5pm in the Community Centre, Ravenscroft. There are categories galore for you to enter and there will be set up time in the morning to bring along your entries.

- Fantastic Vegetables
- Wonderful Flowers and Plants
- Arts, Crafts & Cookery Exhibits
- Tea Room sponsored by Tesco
- Prizes to be won in the Hook In Bloom tombola

The results and prize giving for Hook In Bloom will also take place.

To enter your exhibits contact Diana Whittaker, 01256 769063 or email show@hookallotments.com

MEMBERSHIP

This is a vacant role that needs filling on the committee, it's a great role for a family to take on or for allotment neighbours to share. The current committee are time sharing this role until a volunteer comes forward.

The current management committee of the Hook Allotment Association is:

- Emma Checksfield (Chairperson)
- Marian Bright (Vice Chair)
- Trudie Seeney (Secretary)
- Vacancy (Membership)
- Kevin Gillard (Treasurer)
- Serena Dolby (Deputy Treasurer)
- Paul Trefusis (Site Maintenance)
- Karen Haysom (Director)
- David Saunderson