

Allotment Newsletter

Festive Season

2022

East Finchley Allotment Holders Association

Allotment News

Bonfires

Bonfires permitted from November 1st .
Please avoid causing any intense smoke and check wind direction for neighbouring houses and allotment neighbours.

There are alternatives to bonfires such as:-

- 1, Storing perennial weeds in black plastic bags with a bit of water until they rot or putting them in a bucket of water They can then be added to the compost heap
2. Making a wood pile of branches and logs . This will attract hedgehogs and other wild animals
- 3 Composting

All of the above are more eco-friendly than bonfires.

Easy Access Plots

We are developing an easy access plot for people who have disabilities. This is in the process of being developed .

How to help new tenants in their first year

When I first started on my allotment I got a lot of much needed help from my lovely neighbours as I didn't have a clue . I am now (20 years later) a bit more proficient but am still grateful for hints and tips.

We, the committee thought of setting up a buddying system but this would be difficult to manage as people go to their allotments at different times. Any suggestions as to how this might work would be gratefully received. In the meantime do look out for newcomers and see if they need any help .And if you are a new comer do ask.

Payment for rent and shop goods

We are now joining the 21st century and are going to buy a card reader so that members can pay for their rent and produce with contactless payment. Tenants will still have to appear at the trading shed to pay their rents as usual even with a credit or debit card.

Helping out with maintenance of the site

There are some labour intensive jobs that need doing on the site from time to time and a few dedicated members of the committee carry these out with very little help. Could some of you look out for notices in the newsletter or on the shed notice board, and please come forward so that tasks are more fairly shared

Rents for next year

WHEN TO PAY: Your rent is due on 1st January 2022. Please do not expect a reminder - put it in your diary now. Many thanks to people who pay promptly – it makes our lives much easier!

If you do not pay by Feb 12th your tenancy will be at risk.

A new gate code will be stamped on your receipt

Rents are staying the same as last year:

Standard rate*: Full plot = £80; half plot = £40.00

Standard rate + suggested donation:**
Full plot = £100; half plot = £50

For designated orchards*** and non-standard plots, ask Janet or Laura (see below) or ask at the trading shed.

HOW TO PAY:

Please come to the trading shed in person. Pay by cash, cheque or with our new card reader!

Please do not pay online this year (except by special arrangement with Janet or Laura). Tell us about any changes of contact details – home address, email address, landline, mobile phone numbers, car registration

The Trading Shed

This will be open Sundays, 11am to 1pm from 8 January 2023.

Please respect others who may need to keep a social distance and/or wear a face covering. Access to the trading shed may be limited and you may have to wait outside. Wrap up warm just in case!

Payments can be by cheque or cash. For next year we plan also to be able to accept card payments.

Two deliveries of compost and fertilizers are coming in December so the shed will be fully stocked come January. **Composts (including peat-free), manure and canes** will be available. All prices have increased but we are trying to minimise sale prices as much as possible. A price list will be on the shed noticeboard.

We bulk buy and bag up these fertilisers - **Growmore, Fish Blood and Bone, and Pelleted Chicken Manure**. For next year these will be available in 2.5 kg bags once the current stock of 7 lb bags has been sold. We also bulk purchase and decant **organic liquid fertilizer** (price will be held at £4.50 per litre) and **Garotta compost accelerator** (still a bargain at £1 per litre).

We need more volunteers for shed duty. It's just two hours on Sunday morning so If you are able to help please text me on 07717654683 and I can tell you what is involved.

And if anyone would like to volunteer to look after the two flower beds outside the sheds we'd love to hear from you (07717654683)!

Looking forward to seeing you in January.

The shed will be open on Good Friday as well as Easter Monday

Liz Hanchet

WHO TO CONTACT: If you have struggled to maintain your plot or do not wish to renew, please contact:

- Janet Francis – by email to membership@eastfinchleyallotments.co.uk, phone 020 8883 7852 or on A7;
- Laura Alvarado by email to alvaradogallery@gmail.com, phone 07908 407 482 or on D36b.

Thank you.

*Standard rate = £8 per pole

** Standard rate + suggested donation = £10 per pole

***Orchard tenants receive a £14 discount on a full 10-pole plot