

barnet allotment federation

NEWS & NOTES – JULY 2014

Please send any page contributions, news or events for News and Notes and/or the Federation website to barnetalotmentfederation@gmail.com

Registering leases: Andrew Brown emailed societies on July 3 to say that some societies have experienced difficulties when registering their leases. The Land Registry has found technical flaws in some and will not register them until they are corrected by the Council. Because of the potential for flaws in unregistered leases you should apply for registration sooner rather than later, if you have not already done so. You are more likely to get a prompt response now from the Council staff responsible for these errors than you might receive from their successors who have not been involved in the self management process. These flaws generally require a minor modification to the lease. If you are invited by the Council to send your lease to them for this to be done, you should refuse to do so. Instead you should insist on making an appointment to take the lease to the relevant Council employee so that the signed lease never leaves your sight and you can oversee exactly what changes are made. Until the lease is registered it is your only legal evidence of your rights over your site(s) and you have no reason to suppose that the Council will not introduce other errors or make unauthorised changes if you don't supervise the process.

Horticultural Show: A reminder that the show will take place under the auspices of the BAF over the weekend of August 15-17 in the Rathbone pavilion. If you or any of your members would like to help, please contact Stella - winskells@dsl.pipex.com –.

Arson attacks on allotment sites: We have been told of two recent arson attacks on sites outside, but not far from Barnet. At Fortis Green in April, intruders used petrol from allotmenters' sheds to set light to a number of sheds. Recently there were two fires at Creighton Avenue allotments in Muswell Hill. The intruders returned two days after the first fire. The club house was burnt down with all the supplies etc. Societies are warned that the same could happen on their sites and they should ensure that petrol is stored safely and consider how to store petrol safely on site.

National Allotments Week 2014: A reminder that this takes place from August 4 to 10. Further details can be found on the National Allotments Society website at <http://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/national-allotments-week/>. If you plan to hold an event, tell the NAS who will publicise it on their website and notify local journalists, etc.

Wood chip supplier: Pete Geeson who works for Tree Matters, a local tree surgery company, that often works in Barnet, is looking for allotment sites that might require wood chip and/or logs. Through its daily business the company produces lots of chip and logs and it is very keen to find a good ecological home for it. It already supplies a few allotments in Barnet, but it produces more than they require. If you are interested, please contact Pete by email to petegeeson@hotmail.com.

Grow2eat.com: We have been contacted by Grow2eat.com, which describes itself as a horticultural discount scheme that aims to provide discounts and meaningful benefits to allotment societies/associations, allotment federations and individual gardeners. The website lists suppliers of various horticultural and related products which offer discounts on list prices. Each webpage has an 'in association with...' section at the bottom of each page and they say that "they would really like to include your logo and a link to your website in this section". In return they ask that you include their logo and/or their website link somewhere on your website. If you are interested in this, contact Beth Cowan at beth@crestpublications.com, tel 01536 317000