

barnet allotment federation

NEWS & NOTES – July 2016

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

Model rules for incorporated societies

The Federation's model rules or Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&AA) for use by societies wishing to incorporate as a Company Limited by Guarantee are now complete. Because it was considered to be vital that societies wanting to use the model should have the assurance that it complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Federation has paid for them to be examined by a solicitor, who has stated that they are indeed compliant. They will be circulated together, with the associated guidance notes, and added to the website very shortly. Our thanks to Andrew Brown for doing most of the heavy lifting.

The workshop at the members meeting on September 19 will be dedicated to the issue of incorporation – details to follow.

Meeting with Barnet

Hushang Balyuzi and Richard King met Tracy Sawyer and Martin Thompson of Barnet Council on Wednesday 13th July 2016 to discuss allotment issues, notably those outstanding from the previous meeting in April. Richard King has reported back to those societies who asked for particular points to be raised which were specific to their own sites. The more general points discussed included the following:

Essential repairs

The last few of the essential repairs contained in the schedules of condition should be dealt with by the end of August.

Trees

Tracy is still in discussion with the Council's tree section (who have responsibility for the tree works on our sites) and with the contractor involved. She says she needs an up-to-date list of what is still outstanding. So apart from Gordon Road and Whetstone Stray who have already told us, **if you have tree work still outstanding from your schedule of condition please tell Richard King (email: richardking101@aol.com) by Wednesday 27th July.**

Property issues

The Council is still dealing with a number of property issues on various sites. Progress on some of these is regrettably slow because they involve liaison between three different Council departments - Greenspaces, Legal and Property Services.

Annual reports to the Council

By way of reminder, our societies are obliged under the terms of our lease to send annual reports to the Council by 1st July each year. They should be sent to the Parks department - by email to parks@barnet.gov.uk or by post to Parks Team, Building 9, Mill Hill Depot, Bittacy Hill, London NW7 1BL. The form should be signed; scanned copies sent by email are acceptable. If you do not have a copy of the annual return form, it is available on the BAF website at

www.barnetallotments.org.uk/files/selfmanagement/Schedule%204%20Annual%20Return.doc

Tracy Sawyer had been expecting to retire during the summer but now expects to stay with the Council until at least the end of September.

Our next meeting with the Council is scheduled for mid-October 2016.

Horticultural show

A reminder that the Federation's annual horticultural show will take place on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th August at Rathbone Allotments, Ryalls Court, Oakleigh Road South, N20 0RY. Full information about the show, including schedules and entry forms, will be sent to societies and put on the website by July 24 at the latest.

Plot and site competitions

The competition judging took place over the weekends of July 9/10 and 16/17. For the site competition there were entries from 12 large and three small sites; for the plot competition there were nine entries. The first round of judging was undertaken by volunteer judges from the committee and societies. From the resulting shortlist, an RHS judge made the final decisions, which were as follows

| | Large site | Small site | Plot |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | Gordon Road | Fursby Avenue | Malcolm Sergeant (Hendon Grove) |
| 2 | Hendon Grove | Brent Way | Mrs Fung Wan (Gordon Road) |
| 3 | Lawrence Street | Nethercourt Avenue | Neville and Mary Haneef (Cool Oak Lane) |

The full score sheets showing how each site and plot fared may be found on the website at barnetallotments.org.uk/siteandplotcomp.php

There were no entries for the Ted Green award for an outstanding community initiative by an allotment society during the previous twelve months. We know however that several societies have projects that involve their local communities, so if you are one of these, please think about entering your project next year.

Visit to RHS Wisley

Finchley Horticultural Society is organising a visit to RHS Wisley and are opening up the invitation to all allotment holders in Barnet. The date is **Saturday 10th September** and the cost to include return transport is £17.50 per person. If you are interested in going, please [click here](#) for an application form or contact June Brookes on 020 8349 2253.

Visit to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens (Kent)

Mill Hill Garden & Allotment Society is organising a visit to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens on **Saturday 6 August** at a cost of £21.00. Depart front of Hartley Hall at 9.30am, Flower Lane, NW7 2JN. Return to front of Hartley hall at about 5.00pm. Cheques to be made payable to MHGAS and sent to Indra/Gura, 9 Blackwell Gardens, Edgware, HA8 8QA - 020 8958 9979 or 077 7842 6977 for further details.

Gardens and Health

The National Gardens Scheme commissioned the King's Fund to write an independent report on the benefits of gardens and gardening on health. To quote from the King's Fund, the report has three aims:

- to collate and summarise the evidence on the impact of gardens on wellbeing across the life-course, from childhood through family life and into older age
- to demonstrate the important place gardening interventions have in the wider health and care system with a focus on four specific areas: social prescribing; community gardens; dementia care; end-of-life care
- to make the case for the further integration of gardens and health into mainstream health policy and practice.

In May 2016, the most thorough (65 page) report "Gardens and Health" was published and is available at kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field_publication_file/Gardens_and_health.pdf. (You may click on this link, but if typing it in, please note that what appear to be spaces between the words are actually underscore (_) characters)

The report includes a menu of recommendations that aims to encourage the NHS, government departments, national bodies, local government, health and wellbeing boards and clinical commissioning groups to make more of the diverse health benefits of gardening in support of their priorities. It should be a substantial aid to any allotment society wanting to raise funds for a garden project.

Publicising your society's events

You are reminded that you can advertise your society's events on the website – for information on how to do this, see barnetallotments.org.uk/announcements.

Contact details for the Federation are on the website at barnetallotments.org.uk/contacts

Previous issues of Notes and News are available on the website at barnetallotments.org.uk/notes