

barnet allotment federation

NEWS & NOTES – September 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 have been circulated to societies together with the associated guidance notes. They may also be downloaded from the website using the links at barnetallotments.org.uk/selfman.php#Governance.

The workshop at the members meeting on September 19 will be on this topic and will give societies a chance to ask questions and, if any have already embarked on the process of incorporation, a chance to share their experiences with others.

Horticultural show

The annual horticultural show was held in the Pavilion at Rathbone Allotments on Saturday 20th August.

Because ill health prevented Stella Winskell-Moore, who had organised the show in past years, from doing so this year, Isobel Exell and Afsaneh Gia stepped into the breach. They were aided by other committee members and volunteers from the societies, and advised remotely by texts from Stella.

The volunteers and members of Rathbone allotments were busy the day before setting up the tables, registering exhibitors and recording entries while plot holders laid out their fruit flowers and vegetables ready for judging the next day.

On the day Nicholas Angelo of Middlesex Federation of Horticultural Judges, assessed the fruit, flowers and vegetables, while Elizabeth Newton judged the entries in the domestic division.

After the marks had been calculated and prize winners nominated, Hushang Balyuzi, chair of the Federation, presented the cups and certificates to the prize winners. The afternoon concluded with an auction of donated produce. A list of the overall winners in the various classes is available on the website via the link at barnetallotments.org.uk/hortishow.php.

We had a good number of entries, but the exhibitor numbers were down by two this year. Only nine societies were represented, so for the future we need to find ways of promoting the show more widely. The lack of produce to enter because of the weather was another factor, although the entries we had were quite spectacular in some cases.

We ended up breaking even financially, but this was only achievable because of the takings from the auction and the generosity of all the winners among the helpers and those from Fursby Avenue who donated their prize money.

Several changes are planned for next year in terms of division classes and a small working group will get together to see how we might increase the level of entries, improve on the administrative side of things and ensure our entry fees cover the prize money.

In conclusion, it was a successful event that was greatly enjoyed by the competitors, the organisers and the helpers. For this we give thanks to Isobel and Afsaneh and all the volunteers, to Rathbone for use of their pavilion and to Robert and Elizabeth Newton who once again committed a great deal of their time to make the running of event go as smoothly as possible. Thanks are also due to Janice Codling and Collette McMenamin from Brook Farm Allotments who set up a splendid display of produce and photographs in the entrance to welcome visitors.

The Ted Green award

In the last N&N we said that there had been no entries for the Ted Green award for an outstanding community initiative by an allotment society during the previous twelve months. We subsequently received a late entry, of such a high standard that it was agreed to waive the time limit. The Ted Green prize for 2016 has therefore been awarded to the Pointalls and District Allotment Society in recognition of their successful hosting of the Barnet Refugee Service *Sowing Seeds Project* since its inception in April 2015. It has seen a neglected 5.5 poles plot become alive with beds of flowers and vegetables, each section assigned to different refugees. It has given the participants not only a chance to enjoy the benefits and wellbeing of gardening, but also to use this as an opportunity to learn English, picnic and socialise. Further details of the project may be found at barnetallotments.org.uk/siteandplotcomp.php

Meeting with Barnet

Our next meeting with the Council to discuss allotment issues is scheduled for mid-October 2016. If you have any particular points specific to your own sites that you would like us to raise, please tell Richard King (email: richardking101@aol.com) by the end of September.

Fundraising workshop notes

Anita Gracie's notes for the workshop she led on fundraising for allotment societies in November 2014 are now available on the website by following the link at barnetallotments.org.uk/workshop.php

Annual reports to the Council

This is a further reminder that our societies are obliged under the terms of their leases to send annual reports to the Council by 1st July each year. If you have not yet done so, it 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

GrowVeg videos

A series of informative videos on many aspects of vegetable growing that are particularly suitable for beginners may be found on the GrowVeg website at growveg.co.uk/gardening-videos.aspx

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