

barnet allotment federation

NEWS & NOTES – March 2017

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

Lea Adri-Soejoko

It is with great sadness that we note the recent death of Lea, of Colindale Allotments. The committee have sent a card of condolence to her daughter, on behalf of the Federation.

Federation committee

The February AGM elected committee members, with posts agreed in the subsequent committee meeting. Members are: Kirstie Burgin (Chair), Gordon Kerr (Vice Chair), Isobel Exell (Secretary), Liz Hall (Treasurer), Afsaneh G Nia, Belinda Constable, Hushang Balyuzi (co-opted), Richard King (co-opted).

East Finchley centenary

2017 is the centenary of the East Finchley Allotments Association and they are celebrating with an Open Day on Sunday June 18th from 1.30 to 5pm. There will be guided tours, tea and cakes, beekeeping and willow making demonstrations and plant and produce stalls.

East Barnet (Cat Hill) Tesco Grant

East Barnet Allotments applied for a Tesco grant and have been selected as one of three finalists. Voting is by token in Tesco Stores and the winner will receive £5,000. Please encourage friends and family to vote at check-outs, between now and the end of April.

Funds will be used to develop one of their plots for use of seniors and for people with disabilities. The plot will have several 1 metre high raised beds surrounded by paving slabs to provide an easily accessible environment.

Federation website - advice papers on self-management

As you will know, the Federation has collected together on its website all the advice papers about self-management issues originally prepared by Andrew Brown, our former support officer, a few years ago. The Federation team has now reviewed nearly all the papers and updated them where necessary, notably the weblinks included in them.

If you're not familiar with the papers, you can find them at <http://barnetallotments.org.uk/selfman.php>. They cover a range of subjects including the leases, governance, managing money/insurance (the insurance paper has still to be updated), raising money, tenants, site management and other sources of advice. To help you to identify when a paper was published or updated, the month and year have been added to the link to the paper, eg (3/2017).

Show and competition dates 2017

Judging of the site and plot competitions will be 8 July (BAF) and 15 July (external judging). The horticultural show will be on Sunday 20th August.

Well rotted greenwaste compost

Greenmantle is a landscape company based in Cool Oak Lane, near Brent Cross, and as part of its work it recycles its own green waste and produces well-rotted organic matter which has been screened and shredded. They are producing more than they can use themselves and their site is slowly filling up. They are now offering this free if you collect it yourselves or they can arrange deliveries but would have to charge for carriage which is £240 for 12 cubic metres – so £20 per m³. From time to time free delivery might be possible if they have already hired a lorry and they need to clear space in their yard.

If you are interested, contact John Plummer on 07977500897, john@greenmantle.co.uk, mentioning that your society belongs to the Federation.

Request for Barnet amphibian and reptile records

Did you know that Froglife conducted an allotment vs garden survey and confirmed the importance of allotment sites, particularly for reptiles - which were found on 42% of London's allotments, compared to only 8% of London's gardens?

Samantha Ho of London Amphibian and Reptile Group is asking societies for help in checking our allotments for amphibian and reptile presence, to map out distribution throughout the Borough, gauge population health and the contribution allotments make to local wildlife. Sightings can be submitted to her at 151.samho@gmail.com or she can arrange to visit your site for 1-2 hours.

To submit your sighting (e.g. frogs, newts, toads, grass snake, slow worm) try to provide the following data:

Allotment name and post code:

Amphibian and/ or reptile? (species?)

Estimated number observed?

Adult and/or juvenile?

Eggs / spawn?

Any dead/diseased? (number?)

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