

# barnet allotment federation

## NEWS & NOTES – July 2017

Please send any page contributions, news or events for News and Notes and/or the Federation website to [barnetallotmentfederation@gmail.com](mailto:barnetallotmentfederation@gmail.com)

### **Site & Plot Competition results**

BAF would like to thank all the participating societies for making this the biggest competition for a number of years. There were 20 Sites and 17 Plots entered which gave the judges quite a challenge with the general standard being high. Following the BAF judging which determined the first three Sites and first three Plots, an external judge made the final decision.

The scores are available to view on the BAF website and the details of the top three Sites and Plots are:

#### **Site**

First Place      New Barnet Allotment Society (Clifford Road)  
Second Place    Lawrence Street Allotments & Gardens Association  
Third Place      Finchley Horticultural Society (Gordon Road)

#### **Plot**

First Place      Silas Kendall at Golders Green Allotment Association (Hospital Fields)  
Second Place    Abdullah Rustame at Vale Farm Horticultural Society (Western)  
Third Place      Alison Law and Judith Davidson at Child's Hill Allotment Society

Photos of the entries will be available to view on the website shortly.

### **Horticultural Show – 19-20 August, Rathbone Allotments, N20 0RY**

This year staging will take place on a Saturday with the Show on a Sunday. We want to give people more time to stage their entries and so we are giving this a try. Details have already been circulated to societies and briefly Staging will take place between 2pm and 7pm on Saturday 19 August with the judging of the Show taking place at 10.30am on Sunday 20 August. If you haven't already done so, could you please let your members have the details of the Show Schedule and entry forms.

### **BAF Online Member's forum**

Society committees are encouraged to make use of the new online forum, to see what topics other sites are dealing with and give your perspective/ ideas. Current topics include:

- Vermin control on sites
- Use of deposits, to address ploholders leaving their plots worse than when they arrived
- CCTV and other security options
- Bee keepers – what do you charge them for keeping hives on site?

If you haven't already signed up, contact [webeditor@barnetallotments.org.uk](mailto:webeditor@barnetallotments.org.uk)

### **September Members' Meeting**

The 18 September meeting will focus on letting plots, including: tactics to fill empty plots; handling waiting lists; getting new ploholders off to a good start. Please get in touch in advance if you've got good practice you can share in this area, or questions you'd like covered.

[chair@barnetallotments.org.uk](mailto:chair@barnetallotments.org.uk)

## **Changing Trustees**

BAF have had a couple of queries recently about the process for changing trustees. As other sites may also be considering this shortly, a reminder that the Federation website has existing comprehensive [guidance](#) on the role of Trustees in lease agreements, and the processes to follow to update Trustees. Some of this advice applies only to unincorporated associations and not to the minority which are incorporated as Industrial and Provident (Co-operative) Societies or Companies Limited by Guarantee.

## **NGS Open Day**

Gordon Road Allotments will be open to the public on **Sunday 10th September** from 1.30 – 5.30pm. Visitors will be offered tours of best plots and home-made teas in the Piggery. There will also be lots of seasonal produce for sale including unusual perennial plants. All proceeds go to the charities supported by the NGS such as The Queen's Nursing Institute, Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie. Entry fee is £3.50 (children free). Please contact [judywoollett@hotmail.com](mailto:judywoollett@hotmail.com) for further details.

## **Frogs and Slow Worms at Gordon Road**

Gordon Road invited Sam Ho of the London Amphibian and Reptile Group to review the wildlife garden with two new small ponds, and also scout around for amphibians and reptiles over the wider allotment. There's anecdotal evidence of slow worms and frogs, but no formal knowledge of where they reside and whether they're adults or juveniles. Sam Ho was more than happy to hunt!

Findings: Wildlife garden new pond had ~8 nearly Ready To Go froglets, and a few large tadpoles that will hopefully develop this year, if not – they may over winter and finish morphing next spring, that's if the frost doesn't beat them to it. Recommended bulking up the ladder of stones leading out.

After scouting the land, looking at cover and likely migration links – found two adult slow worms! (a male and female) in a compost bin (half filled with loose grass cuttings), amongst an undisturbed plot. There was another sighting on the day (under logs) – meaning at least 3 exist on site to date.

Some helpful leaflets on pond creation were provided, and there was keenness to create a communal sightings map and place extra refuges around site to hopefully draw out the slow worms for easier detection in future. Overall a successful day with well received Tweets! @FinchleyHort

Next: Revisit mid-August into September to look for juveniles, and see if they are successfully breeding.

If other societies would like to do something similar Sam Ho's contact details are [151.samho@gmail.com](mailto:151.samho@gmail.com) London Amphibian and Reptile Group Rep. 07719 961 507.

**Contact details** for the Federation are on the website at [barnetallotments.org.uk/contact](http://barnetallotments.org.uk/contact)

**Previous issues** of Notes and News are available at [barnetallotments.org.uk/news-and-notes/](http://barnetallotments.org.uk/news-and-notes/)