

barnet allotment federation

NEWS & NOTES – April 2018

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

Committee members

The February AGM elected committee members, with posts agreed in the subsequent committee meeting. Members are: Kirstie Burgin (Chair), Liz Hall (Treasurer/ Secretary), Isobel Exell, Derek McMaster, Hushang Balyuzi (co-opted, web editor), Afsaneh G Nia.

Request for volunteer to fill treasurer role

As above, Liz is currently filling both Treasurer and Secretary roles, so we are keen to co-opt a new person to take over the Treasurer role. Can you help, or do you know someone who could?

The role doesn't need previous experience. Please contact Kirstie if you're able to help.
chair@barnetallotments.org.uk

Forum news

Visit the BAF website to see forum items from fellow societies and add your view/ ideas. Recent postings include:

- Security measures – what works? CCTV, lights, trail cameras, etc.?
- Community apple/ fruit pressing – do other sites have any experience of running these?

Contact Hushang via webeditor@barnetallotments.org.uk if you haven't got a website account yet, to use the forum and other member only (reserved) areas of the website or if you have problems in logging in. At the time of writing, 31 of the 37 societies have had accounts registered. It is important that all societies have accounts since we shall shortly be adding an online procedure whereby each society may update the information that BAF holds about it, including email addresses of officers and contacts.

Ted Green Award 2018

Societies are invited to submit nominations for the Ted Green Award, which is for an outstanding community initiative by an allotment society during the previous twelve months.

Has your society or a group of your members done something that has benefited your society and/or the wider community? If so then tell us about it by completing the form available from the website at www.barnetallotments.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/competitions/2018/2018-Ted-Green-Memorial-Award-v1.doc and returning it before 14th July.

Insurance

A reminder...BAF's [online guidance](#) has a paper on insurance which includes information on:

- Public liability insurance (to cover the liability of being found negligent, resulting in injury or loss to anyone), with a minimum of £5 million cover in line with the Council lease, but £10 million recommended
- Employers liability insurance to cover claims from volunteers, etc – with £10 million a statutory minimum

And a request... this online guidance was last updated in Sept 2013 so we're keen to update it, to reflect latest rates/ exclusions/ providers. Does your committee have someone who's recently done a review of your site's insurance, or by other means has a good understanding of allotment insurance? If so we'd be grateful if they can help review the paper and suggest updates. Please get in touch with Kirstie: chair@barnetallotments.org.uk

Green Waste Recycling – news item from Pointalls

At Pointalls Allotments we reviewed various options to better dispose of our surplus green waste. That is the amount of green matter not required for composting by our ploholders.

On site we successfully introduced a ban (following complaints) on individual ploholders burning their surplus green waste (we encourage composting and have held a composting workshop). We have a dedicated fire site for controlled burning and we are fully aware of environmental considerations, the penalties of causing a statutory nuisance from persistent burning, our borough being a smoke free area as well as a GLA proposal to ban bonfires across all boroughs.

As recipients of London Waste deliveries of dark compost we feel that recycling our surplus is a preferable option to burning. Turning our green waste into dark compost rather than emitting smoke, fumes and smells prejudicial to the health and wellbeing of the environment, our neighbours and ploholders.

We took a proposal to the council who have facilitated our initiative which is about to be implemented this month. LBB will provide, on demand, an appropriate skip which can be rotated with other allotment sites for collection by LBB and delivery to London Waste. This incurs a service charge which will be reduced by a greater number of participants.

If you are interested in this initiative please get in touch with membership@pointalls.org to discuss this in more detail. We will be pleased to answer your questions and to put you in touch with the contact at LBB Street Scene Commercial Services.

Useful guidance for new ploholders

Ealing Dean allotments in west London have a useful page with guidance to help new ploholders get to grips with their plot. It's got plenty of practical tips, photos, and a conversational style. You can find it [here](#).

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