

Barnet Allotments - Listserver email group.

In "News and Notes June 2009" under "Talking together", Richard King gave brief details of a proposal to set up an email group for liaising between allotment site secretaries or, where appropriate, a designated representative with internet access.

I'm sure many of you will be familiar with listserver discussion groups. For those of you who may not be let me explain how they function.

Yahoo! runs a multitude of various online discussion groups under the heading of "yahoogroups". Each group is dedicated to a particular interest, hobby or community.

How do they work?

Once you have joined the group (of which more in a moment) you use the email address to *Send* messages to the group members. Our group is called **barnet_allotments@yahoogroups.com**. Your message will go to all members of the group and you will also receive a copy of it back. Your email address will be visible on the email. Anyone in the group can add to or comment upon the message by Replying to the group email address. Everyone will see that reply. It is similar to an online forum except that instead of logging onto a web site to read the messages, the messages come to your Inbox and you can reply, comment, add-to or just simply read the messages.

There are various ways to join:-

1. The simplest way is for me to send an "Invitation" email to you via yahoogroups. You will receive a message inviting you to join and all you need do is follow the simple instruction in the message.
2. Go to the yahoogroups website, at <http://groups.yahoo.com/>, Search for the barnet_allotments group and sign up there.
3. Send a blank email to **barnet_allotments-subscribe@yahoogroups.com** and follow the instructions in the reply from yahoogroups.

Method 1 will be the way I will employ initially. That way we get most of you on board all at once.

This will be a "Restricted group". This means that only people approved by the "Group owner" (that's me) can join. To start with, the group will be limited to site secretaries and their nominated representatives together with the Federation officers, so that we can all discuss freely with each other. We should check with you in advance if ever we thought the group might be enlarged beyond these people.

There are various minor points of commonsense etiquette involved with group discussions. Mainly they involve, **No** cussing, racism or sexism. Angry abusive emails are not allowed. Members who break these rules may get suspended from the group and may be asked to apologise. This group will be un-moderated, so what you put in the email is what everyone else sees. So, as with any email, think before you hit the *Send* button.

Stella Winskell_Moore has sent me details of site secretaries who have email. I will be contacting those members soon, so look out for (and please don't delete!) an email from Yahoogroups. That will be me asking you to join our select bunch of site secretaries.

I hope this is all clear to you, if not email me at sgriffiths@dsl.pipex.com and I will attempt to answer any queries.

Best wishes

Stephen Griffiths (Hon.Sec. Barfield Allotment Association)