

Hackney Allotment Society

www.hackneyallotments.org.uk

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2005

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2005

TIME: 8pm (meeting commences)

VENUE: St Mary's Community Centre

Defoe Road

Stoke Newington

London N16

By bus: 73, 476 and 393 run along Stoke Newington Church Street. The hall is in Defoe Road, 25 metres from the Junction with Church Street

The Treasurer will be taking membership fees and plot rents between 7.30 and 8 pm. **NO CASH PLEASE**

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Please send agenda items to Sue Carling, Secretary.

Our AGM is a chance to meet other members and discuss matters **you** wish to raise. As usual there will be reports from the Chair and the Treasurer as well as Election of Officers and Plot Judging Awards 2005.

WHATS YOUR FAVOURITE?

The RHS top 10 allotment crops

Raspberries

These need a lot of space and have to be replanted on fresh ground every few years making them hard to grow well in most domestic gardens. However, planted in well-manured, weed-free ground they can yield 1.5kg of fruit per metre row, and once planted need only a little pruning, tying in and weed control to crop for up to ten years. Autumn raspberries are especially tolerant of poorer soils and sites but crop for up to eight weeks from August.

Asparagus

No digging is needed once your asparagus bed is set up, but you will have to be assiduous on weed control. Because they need much space, asparagus beds are hard to fit into most back gardens, but are easily accommodated on an allotment. Heavy crops can be gathered from April until June at a time when few other vegetables are ready.

Broad beans

Sown in March and April these virtually grow themselves. The crop extremely heavily from June until August, with no more care than some staking and two heavy waterings when they are in flower, if dry weather occurs.

Sunflowers

Sown in April and May these easy-to-grow, drought resisting, weed suppressing, flowers are very popular with children, and also make very good cut flowers for the house. Modern multi-stemmed cultivars (varieties) have a very long flowering season, come in a wide range of warm colours, and birds such as goldfinches appreciate them when they run to seed.

Potatoes

Although very cheap in supermarkets, growing your own is very easy and you can choose from an amazing range of unusual or especially well-flavoured cultivars nowadays. There are even blight resistant cultivars coming onto the market so organic gardeners can avoid spraying against the potato blight fungal disease.

French beans

These almost grow themselves from sowings from May until July. Some gardeners start their plants off indoors and cover with fleece to boost temperatures, for good crops.

Tomatoes

Home-grown tomatoes ripened on the plant have unsurpassed flavour and an amazing range of colours, sizes and shapes are available now. The only downside is that careful blight control is needed and to be effective this will involve copper or Dithane 945 fungicide sprays, the former is usually considered just about acceptable in cases of dire necessity by organic growers.

Courgettes

These are big plants that take up a lot of space and are ideal for an allotment. They crop prodigiously and the main problem is disposing of the surplus - a perfect excuse to give to friends and family!

Pumpkins and squashes

With wide ranging, trailing stems these plants need plenty of room and soon fill up a great deal of even a full size allotment. The fruits are very ornamental and make delicious soup or can be used as an autumn or winter vegetable. 'Crown Prince', a blue fruit of unsurpassed flavour, will keep until March.

Purple sprouting broccoli

This vegetable travels badly and supermarket produce is not a patch on the homegrown version. It takes eleven months to grow from a May sowing until picking in March/April and netting to deter pigeons. But using modern insect proof netting makes growing this crop a breeze.

Interested in joining the committee?

The Committee meets once per month excluding January. If you have a bit of time to help to run our Society, please consider standing for election. We need your help.

Chair	Maggie Wilkinson	chair@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Secretary	Sue Carling	secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Treasurer	Jackie Breakwell	treasurer@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Site Reps:		
Aden Terrace	Tim Jordan	adenterrace@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Church Walk	June Lancaster	churchwalk@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Leaside	Ian Dick, Lou Crisfield	leaside@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Overbury Street (Vice Chair & Newsletter)	Sarah Mott	newsletter@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Queensbridge	Wubie Mergia	queensbridge@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Spring Hill	Eugene Clerkin	springhill@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Joint reps	Fredrica Brooks	
Spring Lane	Christine Turner	springlane@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Joint reps	Gavin Everall	
Springdale Road	Annie Wilson	springdale@hackneyallotments.org.uk
St Kildas	Mary Roberts	stkildas@hackneyallotments.org.uk
Others	Joss Bany Mary Connolly Guy Dehn	jossreiverbany@btinternet.com guydehn@mac.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND PLOT FEES 2005/06

PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE THIS NOTICE- NO REMINDERS WILL BE SENT

Membership subscription and plot rents must be paid by 1/10/05; or in person at the A.G.M. We have limited administration resources so please pay your fees promptly or risk losing your plot or place on the waiting list. NEW MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE it doesn't matter when in the year you joined. You need to renew by 1/10/05 or at the A G M, or risk losing your place on the waiting list.

Please complete the slip below and return it to H A S, c/o 41 Dynevor Road N16 ODL with your postal order or cheque made payable to: 'HACKNEY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'.

YOUR NAME & ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF THE CHEQUE.

Name:

Address:

Tel:

E-mail:

- I am happy to receive the allotment newsletters via e-mail: ☐
- I enclose: ☐
 - £3 membership (waiting list) ☐
 - £15 membership and rent full plot ☐
 - £9 membership and rent concessionary rate ☐
 - £9 membership and rent half plot ☐
 - £6 membership and rent half plot concessionary rate ☐

- I would like to stand for election to the following post: _____
- I would like the following issue(s) to be discussed at the AGM: