
BHAS EAST SHEEN ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER



Hold the date....

Allotment Open Day:

Sunday 14th May - the Hertford and Priory sites will be open to the public. There will also be a lunch time BBQ held next to the Trading Shed. Always good fun, do invite friends and family and show off your plot!

Help Needed....Open Day

The Social Events Co-Ordinator Nicolette King is making a request for salads for the barbecue.

Please contact Nicolette if you can help.

Annual General Meeting:

Saturday 24th June at midday - the AGM will take place beside the Trading shed and will be followed by a BBQ. More details to come nearer the time.

Trading Shed News:

Opening times:

The shed be open from 11.00 – 12.00 at the following times:

April & May: all Saturdays & Sundays

June: all Saturdays (3, 10, 17 & 24)

July: all Saturdays (1, 8, 15, 22 & 29)

August - Trading Shed will be **closed** throughout the month

If you need to get access at other times call Mark Gourlay. Mark will be happy to help if he can.

A note to existing volunteers - If you amend the trading shed rota and swap dates could you please text Mark to inform him, this ensures that there are no gaps in the rota.

Anyone who is willing to help in the trading shed, contact Derek Lawrence-Brown or speak to Mark Gourlay at the Trading Shed. Volunteering at the Trading Shed is a good place to meet fellow plot holders.

Update from Trading Shed Manager Mark Gourlay:

Plot holders are often surprised at the range of stock available and the “keen” prices...Prices and stock list can be found on the website - link below:

[East Sheen Allotments](#)

Opening hours are displayed above, but to accommodate plot holders who find it difficult at weekends, the shed will open until mid-afternoon on **Easter Monday (17th April)** and **May day (1st May)**.



Stock still available: Potatoes; Onion sets and Shallots. (These can still be planted until mid-May).

The shed also has tomato planters in stock - these can also be used for courgettes, peppers and aubergines.

For Information...Donal Douglas (Priory Site Rep) has emailed an update to Priory plot holders, however, the following information is relevant to plot holders on all sites:

WASTE BIN: The green rubbish bin is emptied every Thursday afternoon. At this time of year it fills up very quickly. A reminder from Mark Gourlay not to put any green waste or combustible material in the bin please.

LOGS: As contractors have been delivering a lot of logs (some too large for general use) Donal has suspended deliveries until further notice. Keep using the logs!

Why join BHAS:

“Barnes Horticulture and Allotment Society”
(Full name: Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen Allotment Society.)

Please join! Your membership money is used to provide services which help you to run your plot.

Both allotment holders and local gardeners are welcome. The membership fee of £10 is excellent value and soon recouped! Join at The Shed and collect your new membership card at the same time, or when renewal notices are sent out (April) and pay by post.

The benefits of joining:

Members can purchase goods such as fertiliser, compost, canes, netting, seed potatoes, gardening gloves, from the Trading Shed at the Hertford Avenue site. All sold at a very reasonable price. The Trading Shed is run by volunteers (members of BHAS).

A 10% reduction on all purchases is available at the local Adrian Hall garden centre when a current BHAS card is shown.

We have an arrangement with Kings Seeds offering a discount of 50% on all seed purchases using the BHAS members order form, available from the Trading shed with a King's Seeds catalogue.

To order online/by telephone you will need to register with King's Seeds. To register, follow the link below and your discount is applied automatically.

<https://www.kingsseeds.com/Secure/Register?ur=Barnes>

Guidance and advice can be obtained from your site representative.

Wood chip and logs are delivered to Hertford Avenue. Wheelbarrows are available to help members collect wood chip. The areas where these are left are constructed and paid for by BHAS.

Many maintenance tasks such as cutting the grass on main paths, organising tree cutting in communal areas, maintaining fences, are carried out by the committee members and paid for by BHAS. These are jobs the council will not pay for so it is DIY.

The BHAS is run by a committee of volunteers (fellow plot holders) who also assist the council in letting vacant plots and act as site representatives.

We welcome you to join and look forward to seeing you at the shed, exhibiting at the show, and enjoying the BBQ !.... *(Janet Bostock)*

Chair's Report:

BRAG (Borough of Richmond Allotment Group)

Thank you to those who took the time to complete the bonfire rules survey earlier this year. Across the borough we had over 500 responses, and unsurprisingly 75% of respondents were unhappy with the rules as they stand. The most common request was to have some allowance to burn at weekends. Other significant suggestions were for an extension of the permissible months, and some summer allowance, e.g. weekdays but not weekends.

The results of the survey have been communicated to the Council. The Council have decided that any change to the rules (and any other updated T&Cs) will all be tied up in the new Allotment Strategy. However as an interim solution they have agreed to allow bonfires (weather permitting) to take place the **first Saturday of every month 9-1pm from March 31st**.

You will be disappointed to learn that the Council is increasing your rent by 6.25% for the full rate and by 5% for the concessions rate. This is more than double the rate of inflation and based on past discussions with the Council we had hoped that they would be able to stick to a figure closer to the general level of inflation for future annual increases.

The Council's Parks Services Officer has advised the increase in allotment fees is set by Members rather than the services, so if want to express your ire the person to contact is the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Fleming.

Allotment fee increase to come into effect 1st April 2017

Allotments (Not subject to VAT)		
Annual rent (per 25sq metres/ customarily a rod)	16.00	17.00
Annual rent* - concessions (per 25sq metres/customarily a rod) (*Senior Citizens, Unemployed, Low Income, Disabled, Students)	8.00	8.40
Out of Borough residents	32.00	34.00
Key purchase - deposit refundable	12.00	12.00

*Concessions for Senior Citizens - in order to be eligible for a reduced charge for an allotment in 2017/18 you will need to be at least 60 at 1 October 2017 - the date when the payment becomes due.

(Duncan Hoadley)

A word from the Allotment Secretaries...

Plot Inspections, Spring 2017:

These will be carried out during April and the first half of May. The Allotment Secretaries will work with the Site Reps to review all plots to make sure they are being well used and enjoyed.

If there is any reason why you are not keeping your plot worked at the moment, do please get in touch with your site rep. so that we are aware there are issues and approximately how long you expect it to be before you can get back to normal.

What are we looking for?

- Has the soil been cultivated (that is, dug over and weeds under control)?
- What planting has been done? Evidence of protection, feeding, tending etc.?
- Are perennial crops being tended/pruned?
- Is there an overall balance of use? A mix of crops is required.
- Are paths between beds and with neighbours being maintained?
- Are sheds and greenhouses being maintained?
- If livestock is kept, are there any animal welfare issues?
- Are there any trees on the plot in need of pruning?

Lettings:

Since October 2016, 13 plots have been let and 12 new plot holders have joined the Society.

Waiting List:

There are currently 370 people waiting for an allotment on one of the 5 East Sheen sites, the earliest on the list is from June 2011.

Any queries, do get in touch with us.

*Susan and Aileen
Joint Allotment Committee Secretaries
BHAS East Sheen Allotments*



Hints and tips from plot holders:

Pests to look out for.... Spotted Wing Drosophila

Spotted Wing Drosophila is a fruit fly which lays eggs inside soft and stone fruit crops such as cherries, raspberries, gooseberries, blackcurrants. The larva eats and destroys the developing fruit from the inside. The fly attacks sound fruit and might only be noticed when harvesting ripe fruit.



First seen in the UK in 2012, in 2015 my cherry crop was ruined by this fly.

Traps or lures to check for the presence of the fruit fly can be hung in hedgerows or nearby crops likely to be damaged. This will not eliminate the flies but can warn you of its presence. Do this in early May through to June.

To protect your crop, cover in micro-mesh or fleece to prevent flies reaching the crop. The cover should be complete or flies will get under the cover.

Insecticides suitable for food crops can be used following manufacturer's instructions. Some products that can be used on a range of fruit are natural pyrethrum/pyrethrins (e.g. Bug Clear Gun for Fruit & Veg, Defenders Bug Killer), deltamethrin (e.g. Bayer Provado Ultimate Fruit and Vegetable Bug Killer, Bayer Sprayday Greenfly Killer), lambda-cyhalothrin (e.g. Westland Resolva Bug Killer) or acetamiprid (e.g. Bug Clear Ultra).
Ref: <https://www.rhs.org.uk>

To make a trap or lure:

Use a small plastic water bottle with its lid. Make a series of 3/16 inch holes in the sides of the bottle (use a skewer)

Put 3cm depth of apple cider vinegar and a drop of unscented washing up liquid into the bottle.

Hang the bottle near but not in the fruit likely to be affected, not in direct sunshine at about 1m height. Allow good access by clearing vegetation around the trap.

After 1 week, empty the contents into a sieve, allow to dry and check trapped flies for SWD.

The male fly has darker spots on its wing tips. Refill the bottle and repeat the process.

Scrupulous hygiene is very important to contain the spread of SWD. Discarding fruits with SWD on open compost heaps or shallow burial must be avoided, as this enables SWD to reproduce, feed and over-winter.

Collect all affected fruits. Put into heavy duty black plastic bags, seal and leave in a sunny place for a week or more. The warmth and anaerobic conditions will cause fermentation to take place killing the larvae and any flies.

To dispose of the contents, dig into soil where it will degrade. Dig deep enough to avoid attracting fruit flies to the waste thus feeding them.

Follow this link for articles....

[Spotted Wing Drosophila](#) (Janet Bostock)

How Volunteers keep the Allotments tidy:

Mary Thorp looks after the garden around the shed and has planted 3 new David Austin roses: "Golden Celebration" (yellow, strong fruity scent); "Lady Emma Hamilton" (peachy orange, beautiful scent) and "Grace" a tea rose with apricot flowers and a lovely scent.

The roses are in front of the "Turkey Shed" Have a look and smell the roses!

There are 2 climbers planted by the Trading Shed which need to be trained along the shed wall. Mary is looking for a volunteer to attach some strong wires to the wall.

Please see or email Mary if you can help.





A Reminder... Now is the time to put in onion sets. Remember when planting to treat their bottoms with care!. They will need to be covered with vegetable mesh throughout the season to prevent attacks from Allium Mite a tiny little insect that lays its eggs in the young onion shoots and after hatching the mites gradually eat their way through the leaves and roots of the onions causing the plants to become distorted and eventually rotten.



Don't burn them...build a log pile

A log pile will encourage ladybirds.....they will eat your aphids

A log pile will support frogs.....they will eat your slugs

The natural cycle of dead wood breaking down and fertilising the soil to advance new growth has been compromised by modern agricultural and lifestyle practices which limit opportunities for the de-

composters and other creatures that live in the decaying wood to do their work. A log pile can help!

Why have a log pile?

A small pile of logs can support many different insects, provide a refuge and hunting ground for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians and shelter for over-wintering and hibernating wildlife. Fungi, wood-boring insects, woodlice, ladybirds, butterflies, beetle grubs and wood wasps all find homes and food in the logs and these, in turn, provide prey for spiders, frogs (those voracious slug eaters), toads, hedgehogs and birds. A simple pile of logs can very quickly become a flourishing wildlife community.

Where to get the logs?

Select the large logs delivered to the allotments and use these for the log pile. If you need help relocating them to your plot, ask your site rep. You can also recycle the larger branches from trees pruned on your plot.

Establishing:

Use different lengths of logs. Bury the lower logs in the soil a couple of centimetres down.

Maintenance:

Just leave it alone. If it gets very dry, turn the hose on it. Add more logs as it disintegrates. You could also bore some holes and provide housing for solitary bees.

Want to reduce slugs?

If you build your log pile next to your pond it will provide a convenient hibernation site for frogs, toads and other amphibians and greatly increase their chances of survival.

And if you're lucky you might provide a home for a hedgehog.

And if you're really lucky you might provide a home and food for the rare but stunning stag horn beetle, a great composter. A log pile will also encourage children to enjoy the plot and foster and interest in the environment.

(Pam Islip)

A History Lesson....Digging for Victory in Richmond Park



In 1939, an area of Richmond Park, adjacent to where the football pitches now are, west of Sheen Gate, was set aside for allotments. As this was part of the Borough of Barnes, Barnes Allotment Association was responsible for the everyday management of the allotment area. Cultivating the allotments was not easy. Access was a problem because of the military activities in the park during the war. The Council reported in its minutes that allotment holders were not allowed to park cars and bicycles by the gate nearest to what is now Holly Lodge, as it was against the common bye-laws and cars could not be driven from Sheen Gate as the road was reserved for military traffic only. Special permission had to be obtained if a plot

holder wanted to work on the allotment after the gates had been closed.

On September 11th 1940 it was agreed that tenants could keep their barrows in the "stable next to where the Park Superintendent lives" at Holly Lodge. The soil was not good and drainage was terrible in places.

A survey done by The Council in January 1942 showed that on some allotments the water table was only two feet below the surface, but drainage works were too expensive and so were sumps and pumps. Never-the-less the allotment holders of Richmond Park continued to Dig For Victory and managed to produce a surprisingly large amount of produce by the end of the war.

(Mary Thorp)

Enjoy your Rhubarb... All-in-one rhubarb and almond cake

This cake is a standby dessert in my home at any time of year - Add whatever fruit is in season, apple and blackberry in autumn, raspberry and redcurrant in the summer and mincemeat and cranberry for Christmas. The perfect recipe!

Serves 8

Time to cook: 40 - 45 minutes

Ingredients:

- **150g (6oz)** self-raising flour
- **half tsp** baking powder
- **225g (8oz)** caster sugar
- **50g (2oz)** ground almonds
- **125g (5oz)** butter, melted and cooled
- **2 large** eggs, beaten
- **350g (12oz)** rhubarb, sliced
- **25g (1oz)** flaked almonds



1. Preheat the oven to 170C, Gas 3.
2. Butter and base line a loose-bottomed deep 20cm (8in) cake tin.
3. Sift the flour and baking powder into a mixing bowl. Stir in the sugar and almonds then beat in the melted butter and beaten eggs to give a soft dropping consistency. Spoon half the mixture over the base of the cake tin.
4. Arrange the rhubarb over the cake base then drop the rest of the mixture over in spoonfuls, leaving gaps. Scatter with the flaked almonds.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for 40 to 45 mins until well risen and golden and a skewer inserted into the centre emerges clean and dry. Cool in the tin for 5 minutes then remove

(Served at the Allotment Open day, made by *Janet Bostock*)



A Personal Message from Mark Gourlay:

Mark wishes to convey his sincere thanks for all the kinds words, support and help he received after the sudden death of his dear partner Anne last Autumn. He very much appreciated the support he received from the Allotment community.

Key Contacts:

Chair: Duncan Hoadley

Allotment Secretaries: Joint Secretaries: Susan Moore and Aileen Izett

Membership Secretary: Janet Bostock

Treasurers: Sophie & Alistair Kennedy

Minutes: Adrienne Cleasby

Events Organiser: Nicolette King

Newsletter Editor: Brenda Lattimer

Trading Shed Manager: Mark Gourlay

Site Reps:

Hertford - Derek Lawrence-Brown

Palewell Park - Paul Edelin (plot 15)

Palewell Fields/Pavilion - David Abel

Priory - Donal Douglas

Priory - Keith Norton

Triangle - John Bentham

Links: [East Sheen Allotments Web Site](#)

[Allotment Facebook Page](#)

[Twitter Page](#)

If you have any comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please email the Editor.

For Contact details please see the Newsletter emailed to BHAS members.