
NFAS NEWSLETTER

Glebelands Allotments

Acting Chair's update, by Svitlana

Dear NFAS members,

As we come to the first anniversary of pandemic measures, the Committee hopes that all our plot holders and their families are well.

We also wish to update you on some changes in the Committee. Tessa resigned her role as Secretary, and Linda (E68) was elected by the Committee to take up the Secretary duties. Svitlana (P63) was elected acting Chair of the Committee, until such time as a permanent Chair can be elected.

We entered the lockdown a year ago with no permanent Chair of the NFAS Committee, and the lockdowns have prevented us from having a full AGM in 2020. We are now hoping to have one in July 2021, subject to government guidance at the time.

- Meanwhile the Committee, which consists of volunteers, will continue working on some more security measures, starting with the P field. We have also been active in switching to online banking. While our North Finchley Allotment Society has been accommodating in the past in taking cheques and cash as rent payment, with the Covid-19 restrictions this is unfortunately no longer possible. We will ask all our tenants this year to pay by bank transfer, either through online banking or at your bank branch. Please see more details in the Treasurer's update.
- There will be a change of locks late Spring this year. The Treasurer has built plenty of time for all our Society members to make the payments, as you have seen in the invoice letters. However, if somebody has special circumstances that prevent them from paying in online or through their bank, please email northfinchleyallotmentsociety@gmail.com.
- We are also changing the way we do lettings. Each field's lettings will be overseen by a Committee member/s. On the P field, Mariachiara has taken up the role of a letting manager. On the E field, the existing field managers Roddy (E44) and Lee (E95b) will take on the lettings duties.
- Our thoughts will now turn to the upkeep of common areas. Watch this space.
- Wishing everybody a great start to the horticultural year, despite the continuing lockdown measures!

Treasurer's update, by Graham

Dear NFAS members,

As you have seen in the letter accompanying the invoice, our timeline for payment this year is tied to the scheduled change of locks and keys. Please note that cash or cheques will no longer be accepted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The invoices are out, and the payment date is 5th April 2021

If payment is not received by then, termination notice will be sent out, giving the plot-holder 40 calendar days to pay to avoid termination.

If payment has still not been received by the 15th May 2021, the tenancy is automatically terminated.

The locks and keys will be changed on the weekend of the 22nd May 2021. After this date, those who have not paid will need to liaise with the Committee to collect their belongings.

Please consider joining our WHATSAPP group and our Facebook page, NFAS Glebelands allotments, to keep informed of all society events and updates. To join, ask a fellow plot holder to invite you or email northfinchleyallotmentsociety@gmail.com.

Secretary's update, by Linda

Welcome to all plot-holders who joined us recently. Let us hope that it will be a good and fruitful year for all of us – as a relatively new plot-holder myself, one of the things I find most uplifting is meeting so many knowledgeable and interesting gardeners, both 'old hands' and newbies to NFAS. The allotment has been a great provider of hope during the lockdowns and now Spring is clearly on its way. Newts have been seen, along with primroses and daffodils and buds are swelling. We can all hope for a better year!

We need to remind everyone of some of the rules we signed up to when we took on plots. I will just list them, but there are good reasons for all of them. Please check with the Committee if you want to construct a shed, make a pond, etc.. Your request will then be discussed at the next monthly committee meeting. All reasonable requests for non-permanent structures are approved.

Incidentally, we are frequently looking for people to join the Committee – or to help out as a volunteer in their gardening or professional capacity - so that spreading the load of running the allotment can be shared.

It is important also to point out that everyone can see the NFAS financial accounts at any time. Just ask and we will arrange this!

OK, here goes with reminders of rules, PLEASE:

1. Remember to plant trees or make ponds at least 3ft away from paths
2. Keep the path for which you are responsible clear for all to walk on
3. Display the number of your plot (plots) clearly visible on a post or shed
4. No new sheds should be more than 6x4 foot, and check with committee first
5. No fences on plots
6. Respect your neighbours' plot in new planting

SECURITY & RENTS of PLOTS

We have had lots of break-ins to sheds on P and E fields in the past 6 months. People who clearly are not plot holders have also been seen to let themselves in with a key. We have been troubled by rough sleepers and had many thefts both of produce and tools. Keys should not be accessible to other family members and plot holders need to be on site to accompany family members who visit. Every few years it is our practice to change our locks and keys and we are due to do this later in the year, you will have plenty of notice of this, and the exchange of keys is likely to coincide with payment of the annual invoice. P field also needs better fencing around its perimeter, and this is now considered a priority project.

NEGLECTED PLOTS & BUILDINGS & VACANT PLOTS

Because of Covid we have decided to delay renting new plots for the time being as we cannot show new people around, but, subject to the Government guidelines and rules, we should be able to take on new Plot holders sometime in May. New applicants should join the waiting list through the NFAS website.

RUBBISH

Please take all your rubbish from your allotment home with you, apart from compostable materials. We all have a fair bit in our sheds to get rid of, I know I do, and it is tedious to have to take it home or to a rubbish dump, but that is how it is! It is not fair to other plot holders to dump rubbish in the car park and it is therefore unacceptable to do so, not to mention that it is forbidden by the rules we all signed up to.

E FIELD WORK PARTIES WEEKEND AFTER EASTER

We are organising work parties on E field to remove the huge amount of rubbish that has resulted from the demolition of two unsafe sheds on E1 and E2 and which constitute a complete eyesore. We are going to need a couple of small socially distanced groups to form work parties of up to 6 people to deal with clearing rubbish. Contact Linda or Graham, or Lee, or email northfinchleyallotmentsociety@gmail.com. We will confirm the dates closer to the time (preliminary dates are 10-11 April).

NOTICEBOARDS

We are working on getting a noticeboard for both fields – which is a more expensive venture than you might imagine! We can then put this newsletter and other useful information somewhere where all can see it. Do we have a carpenter or handyman amongst our plot holders who can help? See a committee member if you can help.

WATER TAPS

April 1st is the date when the water will be turned on this year.