

Thinking about keeping hens?

We first allowed hens to be kept on the allotments in 2009 but before we did we made sure that an agreement was drawn up which plotholders would have to sign.



This was to make sure that hens we cared for in the right way and don't cause a nuisance or encourage vermin.

You must be willing to visit the allotments everyday to feed them and make sure they have fresh water and make sure that the coop is cleaned regularly and the birds are fit, healthy and free from pests and disease.

Anybody who wants to keep hens must get permission from the committee before they erect a coop and agree to sign up to the agreement.

Reminders

Please show consideration to other plot holders, do not go on to another person's plot without their permission.

The gates must be locked at all times

Dogs brought on to the site must be kept on a lead at all times

You must not water your plot with a hose

Children must be supervised at all times. The Committee and Council try to make the site safe and secure but allotments by nature are hazardous places.

Visit our website - www.ashfieldallotments.co.uk

The Plot

Ashfield Allotments Newsletter January 2016



Welcome to New Plotholders

In 2015 we welcomed more than 20 new plot holders, some of whom didn't stay as they had underestimated the amount of work needed, and were unable to spend enough time to enjoy their new 'hobby'. However we're pleased to report that others have improved plots which had been neglected, and are now beginning to reap the benefits of their hard work.

This was the highest number of new people we've ever had within a 12 month period.

Buy your seed potatoes



Once again we'll be stocking seed potatoes, onion sets & shallots. Please support our stores and buy your seed potatoes and onion sets from us.

Varieties

First Earlies - Maris Bard, Red Duke of York, Rocket

Second Earlies - Charlotte, Kestrel, Wilja

Maincrop - Desiree, King Edward, Maris Piper

In stock soon!

Visit our website - www.ashfieldallotments.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting on 11th October. At the meeting we elected the officers and committee -

Daniel Barrington - *Chairman* Plot 68

Ken Hines - *Secretary* Plot 13

Joe Roper - *Treasurer* Plot 46

Colin Langeveld - *Membership* Plot 25

Eric Shaw - *Honorary Life President*

Marilyn Gray Plot 51A

John Byrne Plot 42

Eddie Wilson Plot 71

Terry Wilson Plot 71

Neil Davies Plot 8

Gaynor Little Plot 20B

Joan Langeveld - *Co-opted Member*

A number of issues were raised at the AGM including -

Stores - We will be having set open hours for our stores, details will be posted on the notice boards.

Plot members must not arrange any bulk deliveries to be deposited in communal areas. Pine/wood chippings are not allowed, due to the risk of spreading disease. Please do not open gates to allow access. Deliveries of manure must ONLY be allowed access to a designated area, and authorised by secretary Ken Hines.

Over the past year there have been lots of incidents of committee members receiving abuse from plot holders. This behaviour is completely unacceptable. No plot holder whether they're a member of the committee or not deserves to receive abuse or threats from people. This is supposed to be a hobby. Committee members are volunteers and give up their time freely to help run our allotment site.

NEW Mail Box

All requests, comments, complaints, suggestions, must be put in writing and placed in the new Mail Box on the office. Please do not make complaints to any individual committee member.

The committee meets monthly, usually the second Sunday of the month (excluding December and January) and all correspondence will be dealt with at the meeting.

New Toilet

Our portable toilet had a leak that couldn't be fixed. We managed to secure funding from the Knotty Ash Councillors to get a new portable toilet.

Help on Communal areas

We need people volunteers to help maintain the raised beds and areas around the polytunnel.

These areas are really important as we use it to grow produce which we sell at our open day to help raise funds for the allotment site.

If you can help please see George.

Plot Inspections

Liverpool City Council have now requested that allotment Committees carry out regular plot inspections. The Committee are asked to write to people who don't appear to work on their plots. This system operates throughout the city, so please don't blame the Committee if you get a letter, they are just carrying out the rules of the system.

NOTE – are you experiencing any difficulties?

Anyone having difficulty with their plot may speak to a committee member for advice, or if you have a full plot and feel that you would be better able to cope with a smaller area, then arrangements may be possible to split your plot in half.