



Horfield & District Allotments Association

Newsletter January 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday February 18th, 2019

**Hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd
(Between Bishop Road and Kings Drive)**

**Tea and Coffee available from 7.15pm
Meeting begins at 7.45pm**

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM (Will be tabled)
3. Matters Arising
4. Report from the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee.
5. Resolutions (see below)
6. Annual accounts and treasurers report.
7. Election of H&DAA Company Directors.
8. Community Garden report
9. BCC Allotments Officer.
10. Presentation of prizes.

Resolutions:

1. The Committee recommend to the AGM a proposed annual rent increases of:
40p per perch per annum for 2021,
a further 50p per perch p.a. for 2022
a further 50p per perch p.a. for 2023.
This increase will allow the Association to maintain and improve the sites while still keeping rents well below those charged by the City Council
2. The Committee recommend to the AGM that the annual charges for huts be abolished from 2020 onwards.

Please come and have your say.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk>

Comings and Goings

Here is a roundup of the numerous changes of personnel in the admin & field rep departments since last year's AGM.

Coming

The ones to note in the field rep dept are:

Katharine & Pete on Baptist field, Tony on Birchall, Wendy, Guy & Dominic on Longs and Sarah on Davis.

In the admin dept we now have:

Debbie – secretary,

Phil – treasurer & website manager,

Steve – plot manager.

A grateful welcome to all and thanks for donating your time & energy.

Going

Thanks to Sarah for holding the fort on the secretary post for most of last year (she will continue as minutes secretary), to Ted for his years of service as a field rep for Birchall and to Brian & Chris for looking after the numbers.

There is still a vacancy for the post of newsletter editor

H&DAA things you need to know

Rent payment

This year payment by bank transfer is being introduced. If you are using this facility please read your bill carefully and follow the instructions. Without your plot number your payment is difficult to process.

Dates for your diary

February 18th AGM

June: Plot inspections

Dec: Resolutions for AGM (see below)

For Community Garden & Organic Orchard events see page 4.

Who to contact

- Change address, give up plot, have a friend helping who would like to join as a member: Steve Soffe
- Something for the web site: Phil Hopkins
- Everything else: your field rep

What is an Associate Member?

If you have a friend who regularly works on your plot it is important that they become an associate member. Anyone accessing the site and using the facilities on a regular basis should have agreed to the terms contained in

the tenancy agreement and understand the rules of the Association.

Should you decide to give up your plot your associate member can apply to become the tenant providing they have been a member for a minimum period.

Concessions: If you are on a means tested benefit you may be entitled to a reduction on your plot rent. Please contact Phil Hopkins to apply.

Resolutions to AGM:

All H&DAA members are entitled to submit resolutions to AGM.

Any resolution you would like to submit should be sent to the Secretary to arrive before the December Committee meeting ie: the second Monday in December.

Working parties Golden Hill:

Hedge maintenance

Every Sunday morning 10.00am – 12md until the end of February. Stout boots & gloves essential.

Watch the notice boards and web site for working days/events on your field

We have said it before but:

Plot Numbers

As you have your rent bill in your hand please make a note of your plot number, go find a bit of board, paint the number on the board, fix it to a short stake, display on your plot. If you are more artistic you could make a mosaic, use sea shells, whatever. Could be a half term activity for the kids.

Seriously though, visible plot numbers make the field reps lives so much easier.

Landscaping the plot

The Association has maximum sizes for constructions such as huts and poly tunnels. However, there are areas/positions where even these limited dimensions are unsuitable. Please consult your field rep before investing in any grand designs.

Bonfires Between 1st Nov & 31st March only.

Please be aware of the impact of your bonfire on your neighbours both on and off the field.

Avoid smoky fires, do not burn on sunny weekend days & bank holidays.

NEVER LEAVE A FIRE UNATTENDED.

Rubbish The removal of rubbish from the sites is expensive and is time consuming for the field rep who has to supervise it. Please do not bring anything on to the site that will have to be cleared from your plot when you leave. No dumping in car parks, hedges, or any other communal spaces including the Community Garden & Organic Orchard. When you have no crops to transport take a bag of rubbish home with you and put it in your bin.

Strimmers Petrol strimmers should only be used between the hours of 10 am and 12pm on any day of the week. It is recommended that 30 minutes should be the maximum duration for a strimming session.

Battery-powered strimmers can be used at any time.

If you break the rules please do not be rude to your field rep when it is pointed out to you.

Did you know?

Eat your greens

If you are vegan, vegetarian or lactose intolerant getting enough calcium in your diet can be difficult.

Many of the vegetables containing calcium also contain oxalic acid which binds to calcium and prevents its absorption. Even allowing for this, there are some veg that are high enough in calcium to be a useful dietary source.

Top of the list are: collard greens, spinach, turnip greens, kale, mustard greens, beet greens, pack choi, swiss chard and broccoli. All easy to grow, and easy to organize an all year round supply.

If you are not keen on your greens try turning them into crispy sea weed or adding shredded to Bombay potato or spicy chick pea dishes

Cooking in water reduces the oxalic acid and cooked shredded collards or kale can be frozen ready to add to you curries etc.

Tomato Tonic

We have previously noted the beneficial effect of spraying tomatoes & potatoes with a weak solution of soluble aspirin (1 tablet to 2 litres of water) to prevent blight.

But apparently that is not all this modest medication can do.

According to the James Wong website www.jameswong.co.uk/tomatoes/4588088979 it also raises the sugar content and can increase the vitamin C content by almost 50%

If, like me you had given up on outdoor tomatoes, discouraged by the ravages of blight, then you should try 'Crimson Crush'. This tomato was bred for taste, not for disease resistance. The blight resistance came as a bonus. The taste is superb and the flesh thick and smooth. Excellent for salads & sauces. Very good roasted when still slightly green.

And they really are blight resistant even without the aspirin,

3

If you want to air your views, pass on tips or look for advice our Facebook page is a good place to start,
www.facebook.com/groups/handdaa

Remember you can use:
Ashley Down Allotments Association
Store:
For high quality & good value
seed potatoes, onion sets, seeds, canes, fertilizers & other garden supplies Station Rd (off Ashley Down Road) Open Saturdays and Sundays 10.30am-12 Noon (Except Xmas/New Year period)

For more details go to:
www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk
You can also get all the latest on what's happening in H&DAA, where to access manure, seasonal tips & recipes

All are welcome to *Wassail*

**Horfield Organic Community Orchard
Saturday 19 January 2019, 2 - 4pm**

Toast the orchard for a fruitful harvest
Bring ribbons, clouties & shining things to dress
the trees

Make merry with Pigsty Morris
Listen up to Bristol Folk Singers
Homemade cakes and mulled Orchard juice for
sale

To find the Orchard (in Davis Field, nearest
postcode BS7 8JP) walk down the lane beside 22
Kings Drive (between Bishop Road and Kellaway
Avenue), turn left and it's the first gate on the
right.

OR take the lane beside 134 Longmead Avenue
until you come to the last gate on the left.

Contact: hocohello@gmail.com Phone: 0117 373
1587

www.community-orchard.org.uk

**New crop of Orchard
Learning courses for 2019**

Do you want to learn more about growing and
caring for fruit trees? Horfield Organic Community
Orchard (HOCO) is hosting a range of new
Orchard Learning courses during 2019. HOCO
supported the development of the Orchard
Learning Programme as part of its 20th
anniversary year in 2018. The course was
designed and delivered by Shannon Smith, a
qualified community educator, and the former
orchard co-ordinator. The first eleven learners to
complete the programme will be celebrating at
Wassail. Working with the group has also inspired
Shannon to develop a crop of new courses for
2019.

The **Orchard Learning Programme** is a
month-by-month guide to a growing year. It's
ideal for those with some previous experience
who want to deepen their knowledge and
practice. Three new weekend courses will focus
on **Seasonal Pruning**. For beginners, there are
one-day courses on **Growing Fruit in Small
Spaces**, and an **Introduction to Pruning**. More
people are growing fruit in their gardens and
allotments. These hands-on courses will give
participants the knowledge, skills and confidence
to enjoy, and care for, fruit trees for years to
come.

More details on the HOCO website:
[http://www.community-orchard.org.uk/get-
involved](http://www.community-orchard.org.uk/get-involved)

Contact: hocopips@gmail.com

Community Garden

We've enjoyed another year in the community
garden, whether we've been sweating over
parched soil or freezing our welly socks off
during the beast from the east. We've had
the most mixed results yet and an absolutely
lousy year for carrots but we still have
consistent 20+ folks along every Wednesday
rain or shine. The weather gods smiled upon
all our events this year and so thanks to all
who came out for them and we'll see you at
the Spring Fair on Saturday May 11th. Also
thanks for all the donations, spare plants,
toys and kind words... though please don't
leave any more bags of miscellaneous pots
for us unless you've checked with me or Pete
as keeping our pot area tidy is already an
epic task. Outdoor toys or kids' tools are
always welcome! and finally please feel free
to come and get involved or just pop in for a
chat any Wednesday 10-4.

www.thegoldenhillcommunitygarden.com

