

fairfield allotments

newsletter 31 January 2015 (AGM)

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2015

The Association is in a strong financial position and so the Committee proposes that the 2015 rents are maintained at the level as 2014. This will of course be subject to a vote at the AGM and you will be informed immediately if a different decision is made. So the proposed rents are:

Full plot: £48.00 (Discount if applicable £5.00)*

Half plot: £24.50 (Discount if applicable £2.50)*

Quarter plot: £14.00 (Discount if applicable £1.50)*

*Discounts are available for members who are retired/unemployed/unwaged/in receipt of any form of disability allowance. We don't require proof – we trust you.

Payment may be made in any of the following ways

1. Cheque payable to Fairfield Allotment Holders Association. Please write your name and plot number on the reverse
2. Cash with a note of your name and plot number
3. BACS (after 12 February) to account number: 41562393, Sort Code: 09-06-66 . Please give your name and plot number as the reference.

Cheques and cash may be paid at any time from now onwards and will be held until the start of our new financial year on 13th February 2015. Please **DO NOT** make any BACS payments before 13th February because earlier payments would appear in our bank account in the wrong financial year and throw our Treasurer, George Burnett, into panic and confusion! All payments should be completed by the 15th March, please

Individual rent reminders will be sent soon. Cheques and cash can be posted or delivered to John Lambert or George Burnett whose addresses are printed at the end of this newsletter.

Hope to see you at the AGM and best wishes for the new season.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

This year's **AGM** will be held at **7.30pm on Thursday, 12th February** at **The Borough, Dalton Square**, Lancaster. The agenda will be distributed at the meeting but if any member has an item which they would like included, please contact John Lambert in advance. As always new committee members will be welcome, and so please let John Lambert know if you would like to join the Committee. Committee members and post holders have agreed to stay in position if required, any other nominations for posts should be sent to the secretary in advance of the meeting.

WATER BUTTS

John Lambert has started a list of people who would like to purchase a water tank from the next delivery. Please let him know if you would like your name added to the list. You will be contacted with a price before you finally commit. Please remind John if you think you are already on the list!

OUR WEBSITE

Our website has not been kept up to date for quite a while largely because the site has received so few hits that it did not seem to be a worthwhile enterprise. However there have been requests for it's revival, so it has been unmothballed and is once again live. If you would like to make any contributions to the site then please send them to John Lambert.

www.fairfield-allotments.co.uk

We have in the past tried to start a forum connected to the site, on the occasions we have done this there have only been a very few contributors. There have been some requests again for some kind of discussion area. We are investigating setting up something that can be easily managed, perhaps a private allotment FaceBook group. We'll keep you informed of progress.

POTATO DAY - Transition City Lancaster

This year's Potato Day celebration will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Lancaster on January 31st from 11AM to 3PM.

There will be 19 varieties of seed potatoes on sale as well as apple trees, a swap stall for jams and chutneys, and many other stalls. There will also be a children's activity and a café with potato based soups and jacket potatoes with fillings and lots of cakes and drinks.

COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

Your allotment committee is:

Chair: Manjeet Lamba

Email: manjeetlamba@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary: John Lambert, 6 Carr House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1SW. Tel: 01524 849371.

Email: secretary@fairfield-allotments.co.uk

Treasurer: George Burnett, 8 South Road, Lancaster LA1 4XD. Tel: 01524 840715

Email: georgeburnett52@gmail.com

(Please note new email address)

Members: Gillian Allen, Philip Atkinson, Val Burnett (Newsletter), Ian Fraser (Minutes), Ruth Mackenzie, John Weedy

New members or observers are always wanted. If any member does feel like helping out on the Committee, or just coming to meetings, you will be most welcome.

SLUGS, SLUGS AND MORE SLUGS

The slug debate continues with contribution from Jon Barry:

"I'd like to respond to the slug debate. I've been allotmenting for 25 years and have yet to resort to chemical warfare against our slimy companions. My view is that if you have good and fertile soil, plant things at the right time (i.e. when it is warm enough) then there is no need to kill them or to endanger other creatures such as frogs. I rarely go for any plan B, but if I do they are along the lines of:

Keep vulnerable plants away from grass edges and planks;

Use wood ash or lime around new transplants;

Use an old bath for a pond (and tell frogs to live in it);

Sling any slugs you don't want next door (if no-one's there)."

On the subject of nematodes Jon wrote:

"I think they are better than poisons. They are still interfering with 'the natural order of things' but then so is any gardening and putting ash round your lettuces.

I've got quite a few very old gardening books (one by the original Mr Sutton is my favourite) and they don't seem to see slugs as any particular problem (and if they do, their solution to most things is to put down lots of soot and ashes). I think that's because they had good basic gardening skills whereas I think we have lost a lot of those (bah, humbug etc). I have more problems with pea and bean weevils than slugs!"