

## Seed Scheme – order by 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

Buy discount seeds and contribute to allotment funds at the same time!

The Seed scheme will continue again for the 2011/12 season. Those of you who were on the plots over the last five years will remember that as the Association has membership of the National Association of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners, this is one of the benefits – cheap seeds from Kings. Plus we get very necessary insurance cover as well.

If you look at the prices in the catalogue you'll see discounts of up to 40% and some things are even cheaper. The other advantage is because we're ordering in bulk, you'll have no postage and packing to pay – just a standard fee to facilitate the Association's individual packing costs and distribution. There are organic seeds in there too, so you need look no further to maintain your green credentials.

If you want to order seed through the scheme, fill in the order form at the back of the booklet as instructed and return it along with your payment to John Lambert .

Add £2.00 administration fee (£1 for the association and £1 for Kings to pack each members order separately which will help speed distribution of the order when it arrives), and pay by either cash or cheque at the time of ordering. If you're paying by cheque make it payable to Fairfield Allotment Holders' Association.

Please place all orders by 20<sup>th</sup> December at the latest.

This is what you do:

1. Choose your seeds and sundries
2. Fill out the order form
3. Keep the rest of the booklet for your records
4. To the total add £2.00 for the association administration and separate packing
5. Deliver the form & payment by 20<sup>th</sup> December
6. Wait for us to tell you when your order has arrived.

Send your order to:

John Lambert, 6 Carr House Lane, LA1 1SW Lancaster

Orders need to be with John by 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

## Bonfires

Unfortunately there have been several recent instances where bonfires on the allotments have been troubling our neighbours.

Below are the new bonfire rules that the council wish us to adhere to.

Some of our neighbours though are not sure that these are strong enough rules and would like us to restrict lighting times so that NO bonfires could be lit between 6am and 4pm.

If we only light bonfires when the prevailing wind is away from the houses we would not be having any of these problems.

Draft bonfire rules:

1.1 Bonfires are permitted for the burning of un-treated or un-painted woody waste only. The burning of any other materials – such as plastics, tyres, carpet, MDF, laminated wood - is strictly prohibited.

1.2. Smoke from a bonfire, which could be a nuisance to neighbours by interfering with the use and enjoyment of their garden or property, or could affect the comfort or quality of life of the public, could result in action under the Environment Protection Act of 1990. Tenants who light a fire within 50ft (15.24m) of the centre of a highway may be guilty of an offence under the Highways Act 1980.

1.3. Fires must be attended at all times until all material has burnt and the fire extinguished. Fires must be kept to a manageable size to ensure safe burning and a minimum of smoke production.

1.5. The Association, with good reason and publicised to all plot holders, reserves the right to prohibit bonfires on a specific plot and/or group of plots.

**If our neighbours continue to have problems with fires they are considering asking the council to put a bylaw in place to prevent the lighting of bonfires.**

**PLEASE can all members respect our neighbours by reducing the number of bonfires you have and only lighting them when the wind is blowing away from the site.**

# AGM / Minutes of Committee Meetings

As members know the committee have signed a new lease for the allotments. On the whole this presents a much better arrangement for the association. However the lease does change some of the way the association currently acts. This has included reviews on the following:

1. Publishing of minutes. Summaries of minutes will be published in the newsletter, placed on the website, distributed by email and placed on the notice board. Full minutes will be available by request.
2. All members will be required to sign new tenancy agreements. These will be circulated with next years rent demands.
3. All members will, in the tenancy agreement, sign a new set of rules. These will be made available at the time of signing new member tenancy agreements. The rules will be discussed and (subject to agreement) adopted at the AGM.
4. The process of giving Notices to Improve and Notices to Quit is being amended to fit with best practice models. This will also be circulated with the new rules and (subject to agreement) adopted at the AGM.

**The AGM will take place on the 2nd February 2012. 7.30pm. The Borough, Lancaster.**



**Christmas Card packs still available. 12 cards in a mixed pack for £6.**

**Contact John on 849371**

## Committee & contacts

Next committee meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012. **AGM 2nd February 2012** – all welcome, we'd like to see as many allotmenters as possible come along.

Your allotment committee is:

**Chair:** Manjeet Lamba

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

**secretary@fairfield-allotments.co.uk**

**Treasurer:** George Burnett,  
94 Westbourne Road,  
Lancaster LA1 5JX  
01524 62585

**Members:** Gillian Allen, Ian Fraser, Manjeet Lamba, Ruth Makenzie, John Weedy, Mike Brandwood and Anne Stewardson.

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

## Surplus sale

Many thanks to all who contributed to or bought from the surplus sale, and went towards making it such an enjoyable day. We raised a great total of over £500 on such goodies as fresh flowers, home-made cakes and jam, plants, some splendid marrows, and of course a lot of wonderful produce.

## Plot usage

Now's the time to reflect on whether you've been able to make good use of your plot this year. If not, are you going to have more time next season?

If you are struggling, you could:

- Cover or mulch unused ground
- Have the plot reduced to a half or a quarter
- Cut weeds down – don't let them run to seed as this makes more work for you and your neighbours

If you can't really see yourself getting to grips with your plot, is it time to turn it over to someone else? The waiting list now stands at 125, so some people could be waiting for up to ten years!