

HOTWELLS & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

July 2018

Registered under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 Registered No: 6359R.

Registered Office: 2 Kennel Lodge Road, Bower Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2JT

INTRODUCTION

Every season is different – that’s something I’ve learnt over the years on my plot and this season has, so far, been very different. This is probably due to the weather patterns this year. Many crops have not developed in their normal pattern, or not developed at all or burnt themselves out, seeding very early – something as simple as radishes have struggled and when they do appear are tough and tasteless. Early potato crop was very poor. Our strawberry crop was disappointing but on the other hand our brassicas and raspberries have been superb along with tomatoes in the greenhouse.

So the message to new tenants is: keep at it – every year is different so don’t be discouraged if some crops have not worked out this year.

There are some important points in this newsletter, so please read it carefully and note its contents. There are two items of primary importance – Membership Cards and Rent invoices and their despatch both of which you will see are now interlinked.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The current membership card and process is open to misuse because most of the cards are not personalised and they don’t have an expiry date. Riverside Garden Centre (who offer a discount – see below) raised this problem with me in the spring as they could never be sure that the person using the card was in fact a current tenant of HwDAA.

New method

Your membership card will now be combined with your yearly invoice. It’s designed so that it will display your name as the registered tenant, your plot number and it must be signed by you and it will expire after one year. It will take the form of a “cut off” strip at the bottom of the invoice (see example below). It is in fact more of a proof of membership than a card.

Printing


If you want to use your proof of membership, this means you will need to be able to print your invoice and the membership strip. So, if you really can’t get access to a printer, you can let me know and I’ll leave a copy in the Alderman Moore shop for you to pick up. I will set up a method for you to contact me.

Where proof of membership can be used for discounts

Riverside Garden Centre offer a 10% discount on plants (plants only - no other items) to HwDAA members. I’m going to work on Brackenwood at Abbots Leigh once we have the new system in place.

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PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOTWELLS & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION For Garden Centre discounts etc.	
Site and Plot: AM 888	Valid until 30 th September 2019
Tenant Signature: <i>P Gruntfuttock</i>	Tenant's Name: <u>Peasmold Gruntfuttock</u>



Example of proof of membership which will be at the bottom of yearly invoice

NB. This means that all current membership cards will be void from 30th September this year.

Which leads me on to...

INVOICES

In the past, we've used email very successfully to send out yearly invoices as PDF attachments which saves a lot of work and the cost of mailing them. We didn't use email last year as we had the Centenary leaflet to send out as well.

This year I will be sending out invoices by email to everyone for whom I hold an email address (which is 90% of our membership). In simple terms if you are receiving this newsletter by email you will also receive your invoice by email. They will go out in the last week of September. If you have received a hard copy of this newsletter by Royal Mail then you will receive your invoice by the same method. However, if you are now on email, please let me have your address so we can use it.

I will also send out an email reminder in early September about the imminent despatch of invoices. When they have all been despatched I will put a notice on each site gate about this so if you do miss it you can contact me in good time.

If you have any questions about these changes please contact me now so we can sort out any problems well before invoice despatch time. Please do this via the website contact page.

RENTS FOR 2018-19

After discussion, the committee has decided not to raise rents again this year. The rent for 2018/19 will therefore be:

Large plot £62, Medium plot £49, Small plot £36, Very Small £20, Mini (WC only) £10.

RENT DISCOUNTS

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction you may be entitled to a rent discount of 50% but you must apply now via the Bristol City Council website where

you can download the necessary form or contact the Allotment Office for further information. I must emphasise that this discount is awarded by the Council not us.

ALDERMAN MOORE BURGLARY

You may recall that we had a large burglary on Alderman Moore back in December. I'm pleased to say that our insurance company has recently settled our claim which has only left us out of pocket by a relatively small amount.

Bob Corfield

Treasurer

HWDAA - PLOT INSPECTIONS 2018

I am pleased to say the standard of allotments this year has been particularly good notwithstanding the odd growing conditions with the Beast from the East followed by the unprecedented drought. Congratulations to everyone on the quality of their plots.

It has been necessary for us to write to 71 tenants this year and whilst we have evicted 5, the remainder have taken the hint and got to work to sort things out. Once again thank you for responding in a positive way.

We have had a process for 'unacceptable' plots in place for a number of years and it is now appropriate to review those procedures with a view to tightening up the process where plots are not being used especially as we have waiting lists for all 6 of our sites. We will introduce the new process for next year's inspections but will outline the steps at the next AGM on 5 January 2019.

Thank you for your continued efforts and conscientious approach to your plots.

Roger Coffin

Chair HwDAA

WATER SUPPLY

Despite earlier emails about the water tanks, people are still tampering with the supply taps and valves to the water tanks. Please DO NOT turn on/off the supply taps and valves on the tanks – contact your site rep if there's a problem. The one exception to this is if a tank is in danger of overflowing – then turn it off and contact your site rep. We cannot afford to waste water.

Please also note that the use of **hoses** on any of our sites is banned. The one exception to this is if you are incapacitated by age or infirmity and cannot manage to carry watering cans. In which case you can apply to the committee for permission to use a hose. See your tenancy agreement clause 21 – there's a copy on the website if you've lost yours.

EVENTS

Our ever popular Cream Tea Event will be held again this year on 2nd September at Alderman Moore. If you could help at this event or provide goodies please contact Anneke van Eijkern our events co-ordinator. You can do this via the website.

SHOP

Don't forget to use the shop on Alderman Moore for your basic gardening requirements. We're doing quite well this year but we always welcome more customers.

A COUPLE OF RECIPES (by Mavis Whitfield)

Rhubarb Pudding (for 2)

I always double this recipe up.

1 egg
½ cup sugar
1 rounded dessertspoon self-raising flour
¼ tsp nutmeg
1 ½ cups diced rhubarb

Method Beat egg and sugar until light and fluffy. Then add flour, nutmeg and lastly rhubarb.

Put into a well-greased pie dish and bake in a moderate oven, 375 F. about 30-40 minutes, Serve with cream or ice cream.

Rhubarb loaf

5oz soft margarine (or butter)
8oz sugar
1 large egg
1 oz raisins, walnuts or mixed peel
½ pint unsweetened rhubarb pulp
9 oz plain flour
1 ½ tsp cinnamon
1 tsp mixed spice
1 tsp ground nutmeg
¼ tsp ground cloves
½ tsp salt
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda.

Heat oven 175 C, 350 F, Gas 4.

Grease and line loaf tin and grease inside lining also – a 2 lb loaf tin or 2 x 1 lb tins.

Method

In a large bowl mix together all the ingredients except the fruit pulp. Then add rhubarb mixture vigorously. Place mixture in loaf tin/s and Cook for 1 ¼ hours until firm.