

Romford Smallholders Society Newsletter

June 2009

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Why the bonfire ban?

Many members have been surprised by the sudden news that bonfires are no longer allowed on our site. The fact is that our lease of the site from Havering Council has always banned fires except when there was no other practicable means of disposing of waste material. Because the Council is now prepared to remove waste from the site which previously would need to have been burned they consider that there is no longer any justification to have bonfires and have asked us to enforce this across the site.



In addition, there have been many complaints by local residents about bonfire smoke causing them nuisance. They have taken the matter up with the Council's environmental health department who in turn are now threatening to take legal action against plot holders and the Society over any future complaints. This may result in substantial fines for plot holders and the Society.

From now on please ensure that you do not light any fires on site. Everything that can be composted should be kept on your plot and eventually re-used. See the website at www.recyclenow.com for information on compost bin offers in the local area. All non-compostable material can be left at the two dumping areas near the entrances to the site for collection by the Council.

Hose pipe and sprinkler charges



The society's management committee has now set the water charges for this year. These are the **additional** charges plot holders have to pay if they choose to use a hose pipe or a sprinkler. Please note that in accordance with the Society's rules (s6) the charges are payable on first use of a hose pipe or sprinkler.

Hose pipe charges are £1.60 Per Rod

The additional sprinkler charge is £0.80 Per Rod

If you not sure what size your plot is pop along to the store on any Sunday Morning and we will be able to tell you the size of your plot.

You can pay the charge at the trading store on any Sunday morning between 09:30 and 11:30. **Please note that checks will be made during the year to ensure the charges have been paid...**

This years open day – 15 August 2009

This years open day will be on 15 August. We need people to help organise the day in advance and also to help out on the 15th. Every year we ask people to grow a few extra rows of vegetables and this year is no exception! Buying fresh produce is very popular with visitors to the site.

As in previous years we want to use any surplus money raised from the open day to improve the site for the benefit of people with disabilities. The money we raised last year has been put aside just for this purpose. Our aim is to raise money and to also get grant aid so we can build special facilities for disabled gardeners. If you know of anyone who would like to use our allotment site but is prevented from doing so because of a disability please ask them to contact us.

If you can on our open day please let **Daniel Smart** know. You can phone him on **0773 9629 607** or email him at ***romfordsmallholders@hotmail.com***

Your committee – working for you!

Most people seem to think our society runs itself – sadly not true! We have a management committee that meets every month and which works hard at other times on a wide range of tasks including arranging the letting of plots, settling disputes, enforcing the society's rules, carrying out environmental improvements on the site and running the trading store and our web site (www.romfordsmallholdersociety.org.uk)

Its quite a long list and as our membership grows so does our work load. We now really want to get to grips with making successful bids for grant aid to improve the site, especially for people with disabilities.

But in order to do this we need some new people with time to help with this particular project. If you have **any** experience of applying for grant money, or know someone who has OR you know someone who would like to get some experience of working up grant applications by way of work experience please encourage them to contact us.

The same holds true of working in our trading store. We always need people to help out and it could be an opportunity for someone to get just a bit of work experience that would help them find a job or get back into work after time off or redundancy.

If you would like to get involved please contact Bob Roper via ***romfordsmallholders@hotmail.com***

Pathways

We would just like to remind everyone that pathways between plots must be kept clear, this includes cutting the grass, moving hosepipes that may be laying on the ground and not leaving rubbish on the floor. For more information see the rules (s 7.8) by looking on the notice boards or visiting our website (www.romfordsmallholderssociety.org.uk).

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