



Important Share News

The lease is going through the final phase and it will be registered at the Land Registry on completion. As previously stated, the lease terms have not changed from those agreed and signed off between Mudchute Associates, London Borough of Tower Hamlets and ourselves and are for 99 years. The FCA has also formally granted a seal of approval to the amendments to the Model Rules voted upon and overwhelmingly passed by the membership.

The Society is now in a position to issue share certificates against all plots. As agreed these shares will cost a one off fee of £2 and are essential to belonging to the new incorporated cooperative.

Each plot will be issued a single share on which the plot holder(s) will be named. As agreed, under the recent Society votes, the shares will entitle you to one vote on any issue, to attend General meetings and continued membership of the Society. Together with the share certificate we will be giving all plots a folder containing up to date copies of:

- The Society's Rules (constitution) which have been fully signed off by the FCA
- The General Tenancy Rules
- Grievance and Appeals Procedure
- GDPR Privacy Policy
- The Code of Conduct

Any future amendments to any of the above documents will be supplied as addendums to all shareholders and should be retained with the pack.

The share with its folder must be surrendered together with plot keys on leaving the Society and only on presentation of both will the key and share refund be paid. If transferring plots the share folder must also be surrendered and fresh one will be issued for the new plot at no extra cost.

To ensure all are formally registered against their plots we will be issuing the share packs over the weekends **March 28th and 29th** and on **April 25th and 26th** between 10am and 2pm. Anyone unable to attend should contact the Secretary or Chair to make alternative arrangements. We also ask that the exact cash be paid either with pound or two pound coins or by debit card.

We now can look forward to a new future with both the certainty of tenure and the removal of the ambiguity of status that has hung over us for many years. The lease is unique in the UK allotment world in that it is not only significantly longer than others, enshrining our self management, is for a peppercorn rent and clarifies that we are a Statutory Allotment under the 1925 Allotment Act. The committee wishes to thank everyone for the support you have given to making this historic, exciting and much envied move into the future.

Chair's Notes

Many allotments in the country continue to come under threat. The developments all around us will continue and the skyscrapers will inevitably continue to creep further down this island, but the allotments will remain.

It is the beginning of a new decade and a new chapter in our long allotment history. We have changed our name several times, moved plots, seen off two World Wars and now find ourselves as a Society, secure and able to look forward to the next 100 years.

I am pleased to announce that at the Annual National Society AGM this June, I will be taking over the role of Regional Representative for London. Many of you have met or seen Jeff Barber, the current Regional Representative. Jeff came to our special EGM a year ago and has been an active supporter of our discussions with LBTH and attended all our meetings with them. With Jeff's guidance I hope to continue the great work he has done. This will mean visiting many other societies, listening to their achievements, sharing knowledge and assisting them when required. I aim to continue to serve as your Chair and hope that we will benefit from the wider perspective gained.

Please be aware that your ex Chair, Paula Owen, has also been appointed as one of the Regional Mentors and we will be writing about this exciting role going forward.

We are part of a huge community not just within Tower Hamlets, or even Greater London but covering the whole of the UK. The National Society continues to increase its offer and is now complemented by new community discussions we are having with other groups to promote growing fresh produce, social diversity and interaction, mental and physical health and well being.

Martyn Daniels, Chair

Smell The Free Coffee

Thanks to the great relationship we have established with the Canary Wharf Group we now have three tonne bags of used coffee



granules which is free to all members.

There is a notice on the boards about using the granules which can be picked up from the lower plots next to the Trading shed.

Seed And Plant Swaps



Last year we introduced our successful swapping events and we got involved in the special seed purchasing arrangements for National Society

members agreed with Kings Seeds. This year we aim to continue these initiatives.

On the weekend 29th February and 1st March we held our first seed swap. Don't be worried if you missed it and we plan to repeat it at the end of March so watch the noticeboards.

Get those seeds you always wanted to try to grow. Talk to others on what to do and not do with these new seeds. Help to reduce the cost of growing by sharing your excess seeds with others. Order seeds from Kings at discounted prices. Finally share those young plants we all have too many of at this time of year!

Plot Inspections

It has been agreed to inspect the plots twice this year, once at the beginning of the season and again at the end of the season. This doesn't prevent individual plot issues being raised during the season.

The first inspection will be on a day at the end of March.

The object of this 'beginning of the season' inspection is to ensure that all plots are fully cleared and ready for cultivation, ensuring that they are weed free, that paths are clear, fit to be used and are safe. The inspection will be on the total plot and it is expected that its presentation will be consistent across the total plot. In addition inspections will review that rubbish has been removed and that sheds are within the rules and most importantly safe. It has been agreed by the committee that this upcoming inspection will primarily focus on the cultivation and weed issue.

All plots will be inspected by a small team on the same day and using the same critique.

We all realise that there can be mitigating circumstances which can result in a plot not being up to standard. It is important that these are duly taken into consideration and any such circumstances, such as illness, should be communicated to Brian as Site Manager.

Any plots which fail will be duly informed as to the reasons and given 21 days to address any issues raised. Hopefully the required work will be done. If the problem remains then the plot will be evaluated by the Committee and this could lead to a short extension, or a 14 day eviction notice being served.

Pollarding



Thanks again to all who kindly volunteered to help pollard the east and south side of the Upper Plots this year. Now we are on top of the exercise the trees should only require a trim each year and the light can be enjoyed by all.

The ivy on the fence of the Lower Plots should be removed this year by East End Homes.

Waiting Lists

The waiting list continues to grow. As a number of plots became vacant we decided to split these in to half plots to both take more folk off the waiting list and also to provide a probationary period whereby they can get used to working an allotment. Once more plots become available then these half plot holders can choose to take up to a full plot or stay on a half plot. It is intended that all new members should start on a half plot going forward.

Importantly we have now made good contacts with East End Homes who are happy to provide community growing areas within their estates. People on our waiting list who live on the estate can then start to grow produce whilst they wait for a plot. These same people can also help stimulate others who may not wish to join the allotments but just do some gardening. We are starting to talk to other Housing Associations to spread this initiative further.

Diary Dates

Committee Meeting Dates 2020:

Sunday 29th March

Sunday 26th April

Sunday 31st May

Sunday 12th July

Sunday 6th September

Sunday 15th November

Society AGM

Saturday 3rd October

National Allotment Society's London Region Quarterly Meeting

Saturday 16th May at Chadwell Heath Lane Allotments, Redbridge. An opportunity to meet other allotment holders and a tour of the allotments.

Nearest station Chadwell Heath, 10-15 minute walk to allotments. If you wish to attend, please notify our Secretary, secretary.iodadas@gmail.com so that numbers can be passed to the organiser.



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook where ideas, tips and news is shared and news is posted regularly. Also visit our website for history and Society documents.

www.iodadas.com

To contact the Editor with photos, ideas, articles and corrections: chairman.iodadas@gmail.com

Disability Action

At this year's AGM we outlined proposals for disabled group which are being developed in conjunction with the Farm. We have started to talk with a number of groups but have yet to find a suitable arrangement. We intend to first establish a relationship and then work with the group to meet their specific needs. Members will be kept fully informed on progress and also have input to the project as it develops. Let us know if you have any suggestions.

Schoolchildren Win Cup



The future of the allotments is in safe hands and we continue to support the children of Canary Wharf College and their plot.

Last year the children in their Gardening Club won the Whitlock

Challenge Cup at the London Children's Flower Society presented by the president that famous gardener Alan Titchmarsh at the Guildhall.

Well done to Paul Mills for all his hard work in mentoring them.

Volunteers are always welcome to help make these initiatives you read about happen.

Whether its seed swaps, Canary Wharf Allotment, maintaining the site or helping neighbours you can make a difference. Please contact Tatiana at events.iodadas@gmail.com