

LEYTONSTONE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
RESIDENT AT RODING FARM SINCE 1934
JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Summer

The late Spring/early summer weather has continued to be rather fickle. We did not suffer from any late May frosts, but nighttime temperatures continued to be cool with many nights remaining in single figures. Consequently, growth has been slow and slugs far too prevalent. They are all God's creatures, but some are less welcome than others! June temperatures picked up and as a result growth on many plots has really started to take off.

Committee Update

Since the last Newsletter the Committee has met on two occasions. The main topic of conversation has been the proposed new legal status of the Association.

We have been working with the legal team at the National Allotment Society to draft three sets of documents to enable us to adopt a Co-operative and Community Benefit Society model. A set of 'model rules', site rules and agreements for tenants and associates have been drafted and will be sent out to everyone in July as part of the formal consultation with members. Please read through this information carefully although on a practical day to day basis nothing will change and coming to the site and working on your plot will remain as before.

Committee members will be around and available to discuss the changes and answer questions you might have most Sunday mornings in July and August between 10.30am and 12.00 noon. Please come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Monthly plot inspections have taken place with letters sent to members where plots are in a poor state of cultivation, covered in weeds, or with no sign of recent activity. Should any members have an immediate problem please advise the Secretary so it can be taken into consideration.

Spring Plant Sale

Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased plants at our plant sale held on 19th May. There were lots of flowers and vegetables sold which raised over £300 for the association as well as providing some excellent seedlings and young plants for the 60 odd members who attended.



LEYTONSTONE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

RESIDENT AT RODING FARM SINCE 1934

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Wildlife II

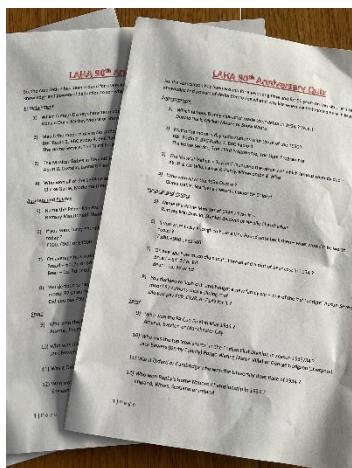
Bug watch. There have been national requests from two organisations to look out for, and report any sightings of stag beetles (a good insect as they help to decompose and break down dead wood returning nutrients to the soil) and Asian hornets (a bad insect as they eat our native honey bees).

To identify and report Stag beetles via www.stagbeetles.co.uk

To identify and report Asian hornets via www.bbka.org.uk

90th Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday 2nd June marked 90 years for the Association on the Roding Farm site. Quite an achievement and some 60 members turned up for a 'bit of a do'. Thanks to Linda for proving a tabletop of historical information and pictures of the site. We chatted, ate some cake, puzzled over a quiz and toasted to another 90 years.



LEYTONSTONE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
RESIDENT AT RODING FARM SINCE 1934
JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dates for the Diary

- **Annual Flower and Vegetable Show - Sunday 1st September** – it is free to enter, no expertise is required, it's very much about the taking part and having a bit of fun. And you never know you might win a cup.
- **Wanstead Festival - Sunday 15th September** – again if you can cultivate a few extra flowers or vegetables for donation, they would be greatly appreciated. Josh, Ethan - Plot 153, Elena, Roland - Plot 77 and Sarah - Plot 52b will be leading on the event. More volunteers to help at the event are very welcome. Please contact the team if you can help.
- **Special General Meeting - Monday 30th September** – to be held in the Churchill Room, Wanstead Library – to discuss and vote on the proposal to change our legal status into a Co-operative and Community Benefit Society.
- **Apple Pressing Day – Sunday 6th October** - bring along your apples and we will juice them
- **Mince Pies – Sunday 15th December** - we shall be serving coffee, mince pies and perhaps a glass of mulled wine - stop by and reminisce on the successes and near misses of the growing year.

Topical tips and Cultivation Advice.

- 1) Early and second early potatoes have been flowering for a while now so start to harvest some. They taste best when they are young. Main crop and salad varieties can be left a little longer to 'fatten up'. Not too long in my view as whilst an early harvest can result in slightly smaller potatoes there is much less likelihood of slug damage or blight on them.
- 2) Continue to sow successional seeds of peas, carrots, and all varieties of salad crops (lettuce, radish, spring onion, beetroot etc)
- 3) Tomatoes, chillies, aubergines grown in the greenhouse or polytunnel should be fruiting now. Ensure regular feed and water, particularly if we get any hot sunny days. Here's hoping.
- 4) Outdoor tomatoes should also be growing well – make sure you tie them in and unless they are the bush variety, remove side shoots to ensure a nice clean straight stem. As the plants grow remove the lower most leaves to improve air flow and to allow sunlight onto the fruits to hasten their ripening.

Finally ...

If you have any suggestions, or concerns regarding the site please contact a Committee member.

LAHA Committee