

Elder Stubbs Charity Allotments

News & Tenancy Updates - Summer 2016

Highly commended growers for 2016 Season - Clerks Cup: This is awarded for the best well maintained plot showing excellent growing skills as well as an aesthetic appeal. Dr. Nigel Northcote kindly agreed to judge the plots and for 2016 we congratulate Peter Hulcup plot 113B a worthy winner and also noting that he has achieved an excellent plot in his first main season at Elder Stubbs.

Maintaining good relations with our neighbours

Upset and unhappy neighbours do get in touch from time to time to complain about smoke, strong smells and noise. It is in all our interests to try to maintain good relations where reasonable.

Many thanks for your co-operation with the new bonfire arrangements.

A reminder about bonfire restrictions

No bonfires are permitted between 1 April to 30 September

From 1 October to 31 March, bonfires are permissible on the following dates and times:

Tuesdays after 12pm

First Saturday of the month after 12pm

Bonfires must not be started before 12pm and must be extinguished, if not burnt out, by dusk.

The vast majority of your weed waste can be composted.

Noise: Over recent times this has included crowing from cockerels and the use of a diesel generator late evening.

Important Security: Your tenancy at Elder Stubbs is for what you grow on your plot. Anything taken from anywhere else at Elder Stubbs without permission can be considered as theft and can lead to a loss of Tenancy.

Owners of sheds need to be aware of risks of antisocial behavior. **It is essential to avoid keeping any inflammable materials, lighters or matches.** Arson has been a problem on occasion in the past.

Sheds, Tunnels & Trees: A reminder that permission needs to be sought if you are wishing to put up a shed, polytunnel, glasshouse or for planting a tree. Small trees only on plots, and fruit trees must be on a dwarfing rootstock.

Carpets and construction materials etc.: This was noted in the last Newsletter and is worth repeating because a lot of potentially useful materials are brought to Elder Stubbs and never used. The allotments must never be a dumping ground from home renovation!

There remains a lot of old building materials on site. Unfortunately tenants when they leave rarely remove this material on their departure! It has been noted as an unwanted and unnecessary task that Elder Stubbs has to bear the responsibility for this removal. **Carpets are no longer permitted to be brought on site and the alternative of ground cover membrane is available at a reasonable price. Similarly building materials are not to be stockpiled unless they are to be used for a current project.**

Vehicle access: At least 2 days notice is needed to organise moving the bollard for access. Most Tuesdays and Thursdays I am on site 9.30 - 1pm.

Useful contact numbers of people with a key.

Phil Creme - 07944417289 (as noted above and I am also a qualified first aider)

Gus - 01865725201

Bernard Clarke - 07540983103

Health and Safety:

Elder Stubbs are family friendly allotments. A reminder to parents that there are hazards around the site and they are responsible for their childrens safety at all times. The pond and climbing trees and Andy's pet dinosaurs are a temptation! Vigorous football or other such games are better suited to the local park.

Adult beverages: Consumption in moderation is ok. Allotments are not an appropriate place to drink to excess.

Site Maintenance around your plot: We appreciate that it is not feasible for everyone to mow the grass on the paths by the side of your plot. Those of you who do - Thank you, it does help.

Please ensure that when you are weeding, **weeds are not left on the path.** It will get in the way when we mow the paths, and it damages the grass if left there.

Trimming the edges of your plot is more straightforward and it is easier to work to a nicely defined path edge as well as looking good! Between plots must be kept wide enough to mow. I will occasionally trim the edges around plots and it is helpful if you do not put canes, row markers, net cages or crop variety labels right up to the edge of your plot which might get caught by the strimmer.

Sheds: There are many on site and they pose a target for would be thieves and arsonists. **It is very important that there are no inflammable liquids in your shed** - petrol, 2 stroke etc. or matches and cigarette lighters.

Items available for sale

Ground cover membrane: 4 meters wide and charged at £2.60 per meter length. It is recommended that initials are painted or sprayed onto to ground cover to reduce the risk of theft. Plastic pegs to secure the membrane 12 Pence each.

Bird proof netting: Heavy duty 25mm (1 inch) medium mesh. This comes 4 meters wide at a cost of £1.30 per linear meter.

Bed Labels: Your plot needs to display your plot number. Robust metal labels are available at cost £5.50 each. You just need to paint or stick on your plot number

Logs: These are periodically available and useful for open fires and wood burning stoves. Ask Phil about a price.

Bean Poles: Freely available if you are assisting with coppicing our Hazel.

Manure: Deliveries can only be made when the path is sufficiently dry to take traffic. Late season is probably the best time before the Winter turns wet.

Paul Colmer – Telephone 01865 735529 Mobile – 0777 0743253

Small trailer load approx. £40 large load (Enquire about cost) (Recommended by Oxford Allotment Association).

If you are aware of other reputable sources please let me know.

Restore - Introducing a new staff member.

Dear all plot holders,

Hello. My name is James Downs, the new recovery worker for Restore at Elder Stubbs. I am writing this to say a hello to all of you I haven't met yet and ask if any of you would consider helping out a little on the Restore plots. I'm sure you know that Restore is a charity and as such is always looking for help and support. We are wondering if you would consider spending some time after you have worked on your plot to lend a hand on one of Restores plots. This could be edging a plot, a bit of weeding or mowing anywhere from 10 minutes to however long you may be willing to spend. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have at james.downs@restore.org.uk or on 01865 747176.

Very best wishes, James.