

Elder Stubbs Charity Allotments

News & Tenancy Updates - Winter 2016

Bonfires: Over the past number of years we have had regular complaints about bonfire smoke from our neighbours and also visits from the Environmental Health Department. Some tenants have been responsible and mindful of neighbours when making a fire but many have not, resulting in thick smoke creating a nuisance on many occasions.

This has been discussed at a recent management meeting and new restrictions and guidelines agreed as noted below.

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.

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.

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.

Vehicle access: At least 2 days notice is needed to organise moving the bollard for access. Most Wednesday 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.

Site Maintenance around your plot: 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 by 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

Parks Department Compost: A good mulch material. We may be acquiring a large load in February if sufficient stock remains. To cover costs there will be a charge of 60 pence per wheelbarrow. Cheques can be left in an envelope in the red post box at the Restore canteen.

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. Note our volunteer working party date. Otherwise contact Phil - 2 meter plus poles of Hazel or Ash at 75p each.

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). Dave Parsler may have been a source of manure that some of you have used - his supplies have finished for this season.

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

Dates for your diary:

February 20th - Elder Stubbs Volunteer Session 10am - 1pm.

An opportunity to acquire some bean poles when we coppice our Hazel area.

March 18th & 19th - Rental Payment at Elder Stubbs 10-11 am

By Restore buildings. Earlier this year because Easter falls on the last weekend in march.

March 18th & 19th - Elder Stubbs Volunteer Session 10am - 1pm.

Litter collection around site. A skip will be available to load with site rubbish, please let me know if you need assistance with rubbish removal from your plot.

August 20th - Elder Stubbs Festival & Vegetable Show.

This is open to the public at noon. Do think about growing something to present in the show. Our next Newsletter in the Summer will have a category list included of how many of each variety are needed to be exhibited eg. 2 x sweetcorn & 5 x Tomatoes.

September 13th - Open Meeting 7pm.

Held at the Restore building. Details nearer the time about our guest speaker and it is an opportunity to raise any issues with our trustees.

Late September/early October: Seed catalogues will be available from Kings for collection from the allotments. Look on the notice boards for details. The seed is very good value.