

## **One Tree Hill Allotment Society – Welcome Document.**

Welcome to One Tree Hill Allotment Society, here is some additional information on the society and the site for new members.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND THE SOCIETY**

#### **AGM.**

The Annual General Meeting is held on last Thursday of September, members will receive written notification at least 2 weeks before. Normally we do not hold any other meetings during the year.

#### **Committee and the Society**

We have a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Secretary, plus 4 other plot holders on the committee, details of how the society is run are found in the constitution.

#### **Rent**

Rent covers the period from 1st October to the 30th September. The committee fixes the rent prior to the AGM and it is currently below the average for allotments in London. It is payable at the AGM or by post to the Treasurer by the 31st of October. You will be advised of the next seasons rent in the written notification of the AGM.

#### **Resignations**

If you wish to give up your plot, please inform the Membership Secretary in writing immediately and also return the gate key for a refund.

#### **Probation and Unworked Plots**

As a new member you have a 3 month probation period to demonstrate suitable progress on your plot to the committee. We take the matter of unworked plot seriously and will issue notice to quit to members who do not fully work their plots. We expect the whole plot to be cultivated not just a small part. If for any reason you find that you can no longer work your plot or you cannot work it for a period of time (e.g. working away, illness etc) then please inform the Membership Secretary immediately. We have regular monthly inspections and take action.

#### **Work Days**

As part of the licence each plot holder is required to perform 3 hours a year work on communal areas.

The committee arranges and publicise work days for you to attend.

We have a lot of improvements we want to do, so it is important that everyone does their turn. If you cannot make a workday then the committee can arrange for a task to be done at another time. If you have additional time to spare there are plenty of tasks to be done so contact a member of the committee.

#### **Plot Enquires**

If a member of the public approaches you asking about obtaining a plot, please ask them to contact the Membership Secretary *on this number only* 07956 529606, with the following details

Name, Address & Telephone number

They will be contacted and advised of their position on the waiting list. Please do not say there are vacant plots, there may well be some on our site, but they will be being offered to people at the top of the waiting list.

#### **Plot Transfers**

If you wish to move plots, maybe to a smaller, larger, higher or lower one, please contact the Membership Secretary with details of what you would ideally like.

Transfers will only be given under the following circumstances:

A/ Your existing plot has been deemed "worked" at the last plot inspection.

B/ The ability to transfer is dependent upon availability of plots, no guarantee is given of the society being able to accommodate every request.

C/ The decision of the committee is final.

#### **Web Site**

We have site which is at [www.othas.org.uk](http://www.othas.org.uk)

#### **Socials**

We have a number of events, such as BBQ's and Bonfire party, They will be advised in advance; any other ideas are welcome.

#### **Water**

Where Plots are served by Mains water , we do not allow the use of Hose Pipes / Sprinklers. As we are on a meter and the cost can be expensive to the society if plot holders leave hoses running for long periods.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

We all must take responsibility for health and Safety. Apart from the usual considerations such as being careful in use of tools,

### **Metal Poles**

On some plot metal poles are used as fencing posts, especially along the paths edges. They could be dangerous if any one falls on to them; accordingly plot holders must ensure they are either removed or suitable top coverings. Any posts over 5 foot high are excluded.

### **Paths**

Please note as per the licence agreement all paths must be of at least 18 inches wide, preferably 24", and in good condition. Narrow & overgrown paths are dangerous, as it is not easy walking on them, also where Brambles have grown across them; they become a Health and Safety issue as they become trip hazards. Furthermore narrow paths make wheelbarrow maneuverability difficult.

There has been a practice by a small number of ploholders of increasing the size of a plot by cutting into the path. This cannot be tolerated as it makes paths narrow and access more difficult. The committee will take action against ploholders whose paths are not up to standard.

### **Fires**

Whilst the licence allows ploholders to have a bonfire, we must ask for any manmade materials such as plastics not to be burnt. It is also not good for the environment or health as dangerous dioxins can be produced. Please take them home and dispose of them in your household rubbish. Also please do not use old engine oil to start fires, and the residue left is not good for the soil. Furthermore the smell from these items is unpleasant and other plot holders can be offended. Please ensure the fire is extinguished an hour before leaving the site, this is a requirement of our sites insurance.

### **Tetanus**

In the allotment you come into contact with soil and animal manure and you may wish to be vaccinated against tetanus. It is only a suggestion and we don't wish to alarm anyone. We cannot be responsible for medical advice but if you feel you may need protection then we suggest you should contact your doctor to discuss this matter.

### **Ponds**

Can be very attractive and provide a habitat for wildlife, but they can also present a danger to children. The Society is required to impose conditions on building ponds, permission from the committee must be obtained before creating one.

## **SITE**

### **Theft of Produce**

It is disheartening to be growing produce and then find it stolen. The committee would like to make it clear that theft from other plots is not tolerated and anyone found doing this will be issued with an immediate Notice to Quit. Also do not take items which are lying on communal areas.

### **Organic**

We prefer plot holders to use organic means where ever possible. We certainly do not allow usage of weedkiller sprays as in the past other plots have been affected and ruined due to "drift".

### **Security**

Please ensure the gates are padlocked after you use them, do not leave them open and unattended for any amount of time. We cannot be responsible for any tools, equipment etc left on the site, even in a locked shed. We occasionally do have break-ins, so please ensure you take home any quality tools.

### **Strimmers**

We have 3 of different sizes and capabilities that can be used by plot holders. We have an arrangement for plot holders to use them, to arrange use of them please contact Carole on 020 8699 6099 at least a day in advance.

### **Manure**

We have deliveries of:

Horse manure – occasionally, please look out for it, located by the Green Container.

Wood Chip – occasionally, please look out for it, located by the Green Container.

You are free to help yourself to the manures, but please leave some for other plot holders!

### **Sheds & Greenhouses**

We allow such structures on the site, but must be of reasonable size. permission from the committee must be obtained before creating one.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **BOOKS**

#### **The Vegetable & Herb Expert - Dr D.G. Hessayon**

The expert series is always straight forward, clear, reasonably priced and very useful. Indispensable for beginners.

EXPERT Books ISBN 0 903505 46 0

Is widely available from garden centres and booksellers.

#### **Grow Your Own Vegetables - Joy Larkcom**

Straight forward book, a bit more in depth to "The Vegetable & Herb expert", It addresses the concerns of 21st-century gardeners and is totally organic in its approach.

Frances Lincoln Ltd ISBN 071121963X

#### **Successful Organic Gardening - Geoff Hamilton**

Lot of photos, includes detailed sections on vegetables as well as trees and flowers. Also sections on soil preparation, compost making, controlling pests, plant by season, cultivating fruit and greenhouses.

DORLING KINDERSLEY

ISBN 0-86318-200-3

#### **Practical Allotment Gardening - Caroline Foley, Clive Nichols (Photographer)**

This book offers practical information and tips on all aspects of allotment gardening. Beginning with the basics, the book gives advice on planning and laying out a new plot, soil preparation and sowing from seed. Alphabetical listing vegetables, herbs and fruit gives useful information on which varieties to plant and their cultivation, while a chapter on pests and diseases gives advice on protecting plants without using chemicals. Interspersed throughout are practical projects and tips for the allotment gardener.

NEW HOLLAND PUBLISHERS ISBN: 1859748902

#### **Allotment Book - A.M. Clevely**

This book testifies to the new vibrancy of allotment culture, aiming both to inspire the next generation of plot-holders and to provide all the practical knowledge needed to turn a patch of soil into a lifelong adventure. Open to all the new eco-gardening techniques, and the various weird and wonderful ways people make use of their plots, contents include: the history of allotments; features photos and interviews with current plot-holders; planning your perfect allotment - finding it, assessing it, clearing the ground and all you need to know about soil management. It also features the key to growing success choosing a gardening method - organic, biodynamic, rotation beds, companion planting, greenhouse, multi-level, potager, cottage garden, and so on. The hard stuff - constructing sheds, compost bins, cold frames, fruit cages, ponds, seating and play areas selecting crops - what and how to grow, from parsnips and peas to chilli peppers and lemon grass cultivation techniques - digging, sowing, feeding, weeding and harvesting, plus troubleshooting pests and diseases the allotment calendar - extensive, month-by-month look at what's in season, jobs for now and looking ahead.

Collins (3 April 2006) ISBN: 000720759X

#### **Allotment Gardening: An Organic Guide for Beginners Susan Berger**

A practical guide to growing your own fruit and vegetables organically. Aimed at those who have not had an allotment before, or are new to growing their own, it is packed with advice - from choosing and planning your allotment through to harvesting and storing your produce. In Part One, Susan Berger discusses the basics, from tools, planning and clearing the site, to soil, crop rotation, planting and protecting plants. She also looks at design, growing techniques - from feeding and mulching to saving seed and supporting plants - and how to prevent and cope with common problems. A gardener's calendar, with detailed activities for each month, completes the section. Part Two gives detailed instructions on the cultivation of individual fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs, along with recommendations for particular varieties, chosen for their flavour. Ideas for companion planting, and tips on storage and use of herbs are also included. Each fruit and vegetable entry features an easy recipe to help you make the most of your fresh produce: simple soups from pea to pumpkin, unusual ways of serving vegetables, from Frizzled Brussel Sprouts to Roasted Beetroot with Thyme; more exotic dishes, from Sauteed Kohl Rabi to an earthy Ribollita; and easy recipes for puddings and jams. Illustrated with line drawings and over 30 full colour photographs, "Allotment Gardening" also includes a directory of organic seed suppliers and useful organizations.

Green Books (25 May 2005) ISBN: 1903998549

### **WEB SITES**

[www.allotment.org.uk/](http://www.allotment.org.uk/) - Offers help and advice to allotment and vegetable gardeners Also has special offers.

[www.nsalg.org.uk/](http://www.nsalg.org.uk/) - National Allotment and Leisure Garden Society National body for allotmenters in the UK

[www.allotments-uk.com](http://www.allotments-uk.com) - A directory of allotment related links, and a discussion forum.

[www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari/](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari/) -Allotments Regeneration Initiative promoting allotments.

[www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profiles0304/allotment.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profiles0304/allotment.asp) - Royal Horticultural Society - Gardening Advice: Planning an Allotment

## **USEFUL ORGANISATIONS**

### **HDRA -Henry Doubleday Research Association**

HDRA is Europe's largest organic membership organisation. It is dedicated to researching and promoting organic gardening, farming and food. A number of our plot holders are members. Now Known as Garden Organic.

HDRA  
Ryton Organic Gardens  
Coventry  
CV8 3LG

Tel: +44 (0) 24 7630 3517  
Fax: +44 (0) 24 7663 9229  
Email: [enquiry@hdra.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@hdra.org.uk)  
<http://www.hdra.org.uk/>

### **Soil Association**

Leading organic certifier and campaigner

Soil Association  
Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6BY, United Kingdom  
T: 0117 929 0661  
F: 0117 925 2504  
E: [info@soilassociation.org](mailto:info@soilassociation.org)  
<http://www.soilassociation.org>

### **Organic Gardening Catalogue**

Official catalogue of the HDRA, Europe's leading organic gardening organisation. The catalogue is run as a joint venture with Chase Organics in Hersham, Surrey, UK who have been suppliers to organic gardeners for over 80 years.

They supply to both members and non-members. With a range of seeds, fertilisers, composts, pest controls, weed controls, tools and books

The Organic Gardening Catalogue  
Riverdene Business Park,  
Molesey Road,  
Hersham,  
Surrey,  
KT12 4RG,  
UK

For all order enquiries  
Email: [chaseorg@aol.com](mailto:chaseorg@aol.com)  
Telephone: 01932 253666  
Fax: 01932 252707  
[www.organiccatalog.com](http://www.organiccatalog.com)

### **Plastics By Post Ltd.**

Supplies black plastic mulch and other horticultural plastics

FREEPOST,  
Ventnor,  
Isle of Wight,  
PO38 1BR  
PHONE ORDERS ( 01983 ) 852241  
FAX ORDERS ( 01983 ) 854079

<http://www.plasticsbypost.net/mainpages/weedcontrolpage.htm>