

SPADE HUSBANDRY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Information for new members

Welcome to Spade Husbandry Allotment Society.

We hope this leaflet will tell you everything you need to know about your new allotment.

Plot numbers

Please ensure your plot is clearly numbered. The sign should be at the end of your plot on the central path. For plots at the back of the site please place the sign at the end closest to the central path.

Safety and security

Unfortunately burglaries happen from time to time and any expensive tools are likely to be a target. Mark your tools and make sure your shed is secure.

We are all responsible for keeping the site safe and secure. Minimise the risk of accidents by looking after your paths and not letting the edges of your plot get overgrown. If your plot backs on to the edges of the site, make sure you leave a 4 ft gap between the fence and any shed you have to make it harder for intruders to jump over. Please let the committee know if you think someone has got over the fence. Reinforcing the fence with brambles is a useful deterrent. If you bring guests or children on to the site they are your responsibility.

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

Allotment people are friendly and sociable but unless you are invited by another plotholder please stay within the communal area of the site and your own plot.

Keys

There are two gates to the site and a vehicle gate on Forest Road. Please lock the gate behind you whenever you enter or leave the site. The gate padlocks are changed annually, and you will need to hand in your old key and collect a new one every year on subs day. A deposit of £4 is charged for each key.

Rubbish

Please take all your rubbish away and dispose of it at home. Bonfires are not allowed due to complaints from adjoining householders.

Water

Our water supply is metered which means we are charged for all the water we use so please do not waste any! Plotholders are encouraged to conserve as much water as possible, for example: fit guttering to sheds and collect rainwater in tubs and tanks.

The water supply is turned off in winter to prevent the pipes splitting. We are very lucky that the water butts on the main path are maintained by a member of the society but all leaks cost money and all plumbing repairs take time so please never tamper with the taps or the tank mechanism.

Please do not wash produce or tools in the water butts and do not allow children to play with the water butts.

Trading Hut

You can buy various supplies from the Trading Hut. We put in an annual bulk order with King's Seeds and get 40% discount on retail prices. Seed catalogues will be available from the Trading Hut in time for you to plan your order for delivery in the Spring. The Trading Hut is only open when a volunteer can spare time from working on their own plot. If you would like to offer some time and want to find out what is involved, please contact the committee or speak to whoever is in the hut and you will be very welcome.

Rent

The Wathamstow and Chingford Almshouse Charity collects rent from the plotholders once a year, usually by sending a letter to each plotholder. Rents are used to pay a part time Allotment Manager and to cover site maintenance.

Membership

Plotholders also pay a subscription to become a member of the Spade Husbandry Allotment Society. Subs are currently £20 for a full plot and £10 for a half plot. This covers the cost of water, insurance, membership of the National Allotment Society (see below) and any other expenditure members may decide.

Vehicle Access

The track which leads from Forest Road does not belong to the allotment site and must be kept clear for access by emergency services. Cars should not be parked on the track. Loading and off loading are permitted but cars should then be driven off-site. Cars are permitted on to the site to unload but not when the ground is soft.

Deliveries

From time to time the committee arranges deliveries of manure, compost and wood chippings. You will see these in a big pile outside the main gate. Take what you need and make a cash donation at the Trading Hut.

Social Events

There is usually a barbecue in the summer and a bonfire and fireworks around 5 November. Come and meet fellow plotheholders over food and drinks!

Working Parties

From time to time we get a working party together to do jobs around the site such as repairing the fences, levelling the access track, trimming trees.

Committee

The committee is made up of volunteers who are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Committee members do various things including setting up work parties, running the Trading Hut, ordering seeds, organising social events. We are always looking out for members to get involved and help out in various ways.

The National Allotment Society

Plotheholders can access a wealth of resources from the National Allotment Society.

<https://thenas.org.uk/>

The members area can be accessed using the login: s4348a and password: 7875110. Please do not share these details with people who are not WSHA plotheholders.

WhatsApp

Keep in touch with other plot holders though the WhatsApp group. Join by following this link on your phone:

[Spade Allotment WhatsApp group](#)

Questions and Suggestions

You can get in touch with the committee by email: spadeallotments@gmail.com.

Minutes of committee meetings are emailed to members and also put on the noticeboards at the site.

You can also get in touch with the Allotment Manager who is employed by Walthamstow and Chingford Almshouse Charity. The phone number is displayed around the site.

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