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ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER NO. 1 **SUMMER 2015**

As we are now a good way through the first season under the new management regime, we thought it would be useful to produce the first in a series of half yearly newsletters to let everyone know the up to date position concerning various matters relevant to the two separate allotment fields. Going forward we would hope to produce similar newsletters each Spring and Autumn and would welcome any responses and further input from allotment holders.

ONGOING WORKS

This year has seen a continuation of our programme of works to improve the allotment fields at both Stevens Street and Northampton Road, these works including further site clearance, removal of redundant and derelict sheds together with some additional drainage works. We intend to continue this process with the provision of new site signage; maintenance works to entrance gateways and the extension of the water supply system at Northampton Road.

However, this must be a two-way process and the Charity hopes that a growing level of communal pride on both sites will encourage every single allotment holder to not only ensure that their own plot is kept productive and tidy but that allotment holders will also take pride in maintaining common areas and for example keeping down weeds and grass on the plot edges and adjacent path edges.

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Ultimately it is our intention to assist allotment holders at both allotment fields to form their own individual allotment associations and thereby take total control over the management and activities of the two separate allotment fields via block Leases direct from the Charity.

SITE SECURITY

Security is a growing concern on both sites and although we accept that it will never be possible to have total security, we would continue to encourage all allotment holders to ensure that the entrance gates to the allotment fields are kept closed at all times so as to discourage trespass and unauthorised access. Anyone wishing to gain access to the Northampton Road allotment field in a high vehicle should contact the Charity office and we will be able to provide a key to open the barrier subject to the key being returned the same day.

BONFIRES

On both sites there has been a history of some site nuisance being caused by bonfires and we would specifically draw your attention to the terms and conditions set out within your Allotment Agreements to the effect that bonfires should only be used as a last resort and only when the wind direction is such that smoke will not be causing a nuisance to nearby businesses or residents and subject to the bonfires being fully extinguished before leaving the site of an evening.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Finally, in the unlikely event that there are any disputes concerning any matters, all allotment holders are encouraged to contact the Charity office immediately whereupon we will be pleased to try and assist. Our contact details are as above and the Charity office is manned five days a week. As part of our ongoing management of the allotment field, we will be carrying out regular inspections in the hope that we can quickly identify any problematic areas or issues.



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STEVENS STREET

WALNUT TREE

There has been much gossip and even press coverage concerning the now famous Walnut Tree in the middle of the allotment field. Whilst there are no plans to fell the tree, it is clearly providing some problems for the allotments beneath the canopy of the tree and one or two branches are beginning to look a little unhealthy. We have therefore consulted a tree surgeon and it is our intention to carry out certain minor works to lift the crown of the tree by removing some of the lower branches and at the same time we will prune the adjacent apple tree. It is intended that these works will be carried out within the next couple of months.

SKIPS

During the course of this year we have arranged for several skips to be on site and this has led to a vast amount of rubbish and waste being removed. If there is an adequate level of demand we may well provide a further skip later in the year and would appreciate the allotment holders' thoughts concerning this matter.

NORTHAMPTON ROAD

HEDGES AND GRASS AREAS

During the course of the next few weeks we hope to instruct contractors to trim the roadside hedge and flail the banks and the grassed area; however these works cannot be undertaken until after September 1st. Once again may we stress the importance of not depositing any waste materials or vegetation on the banks as this provides us with real problems with the contractors who then experience damage to their machinery.

WATER SUPPLY

Contractors will also soon be instructed to extend the water supply system in order to provide an additional water trough at the bottom of the cross path at the southern end of the allotment field.

SKIPS

Later in the year we are considering the possibility of providing a skip on the site in order to enable allotment holders to dispose of any waste materials in a controlled manner. We would appreciate some feedback as to whether or not such a skip would be useful.

We hope that you have all enjoyed an excellent season and look forward to working with you all in order to continue to improve the amenity and productivity of the allotment fields.

This Newsletter has been sent to all allotment holders who have registered an email address with us. If you have not received electronic copy please contact the Charity Office and we will make arrangements to add you to the Distribution List for future newsletters and other general information.

The Charity Office
15th July 2015