

# Highgate Allotments Association Newsletter November 2016

**The new HAA Committee is as follows:**

**Committee Chair:** allocated on a rolling basis for each meeting

**Committee Secretary:** Hilary Laurie

**Joint Site Secretaries and Lettings:** David Gittings and Geoff Kemball Cook

**Probationer Support Officer:** Dan Hackett

**Treasurer and Shed Shop Manager:** Jim Greenhill

**Accounts:** Graham Laurie (co-opted member)

**Shed Improvement, Waste Management and Working Party Co-ordinator:** Martin Rasmussen (co-opted member)

**Site Security and Maintenance Manager:** Angelo Guarino

**Waiting List Manager:** Rob Wilson

**Website Manager:** Jack Humphrey

**Membership Secretary:** Maggy Meade-King

**Newsletter Editor and Haringey Allotment Forum rep:** Marc Haynes

*You can contact anyone on the Committee via [highgateallotments@outlook.com](mailto:highgateallotments@outlook.com) or the letterbox on the Shed Shop. The Committee minutes (once approved by next Committee meeting) and all sorts of other useful documents are posted on our website: <http://www.highgate-allotments.org/documents/>*

## **Shed Shop Winter opening hours**

The Shed Shop will open between 12 noon and 1pm on Saturdays throughout the winter months, weather permitting! It will be closed for stocktaking during the Xmas and New Year holiday period and restocked in the New Year. Do get in touch with a member of the Committee if you would like to be part of the team supporting Jim in the Shop in the coming year.

## **The next compost delivery will be between 8 and 10am on Friday, 24 March, 2017.**

In the meantime, we have regular deliveries of **wood chippings** and the "off season" is a good time to lay them down **to make paths safer** - please remember that we are all responsible for the paths next to our plots.

## **Topical tips from Dan Hackett - Fertilisers**

Amongst the reasons why you might not be getting the crops you want, soil fertility may be in issue. Whilst the ideal is to build your soil's fertility through applying compost and manure, plus rotating your crops - as they take different nutrients out of the soil (and to avoid pests and diseases) - you may get better results by adding organic or inorganic fertilisers.

These come in powder, granule or pellet form, and many are available in the Shed Shop. On some products you will see the N, P, K balance on the label. N stands for nitrogen, P stands for phosphorus, and K potassium (from Kalium). These are the three principal nutrients plants need. Nitrogen is needed for leafy growth, but in excess it can make plants prone to pests and diseases. Phosphorus is needed for root growth and potassium is connected with flower and fruit production and to some extent with plant defences.

You may be familiar with the tomato food and that it contains plenty of potassium (or potash as it is also known) which helps your yield. Other crops such as strawberries also like potash. Phosphates (good for basal dressing before planting) can come from superphosphate (inorganic) or bone meal, but also will be in balanced fertiliser like Growmore, which contains N, P and K. Let's not forget seaweed meal that will have a range of micronutrients and calcified seaweed that is an alternative to lime, should you find your soil's pH (a measure of acidity/alkalinity) needs regulating.

So visit the Shop and see what's on sale. The ecompost we had last week will help, but by experience, we are finding that it is helpful, but not as rich as manure ( despite that smell!).

***This newsletter has been produced by the Highgate Allotments Association Committee.***

***Please let us know if you didn't receive this email directly but would like to do so in future.***