

Chairman - Ernie Garnham
Treasurer - Ray How
Secretary - Margaret Walker
Site Manager - Ray How

GAYNES PARK MANNERS WAY

ALLOTMENTS & GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Members
Debbie Gordon
Steve Reynolds
John Walker
Barry Crawford
Colin Ford
David Catchpole
Victor Birley

FEBRUARY 2017

NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting will be held on **Friday 10th March 2017** in the WI Hall, Rochford Square starting at 7.30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend, it is your Association and the Chairman and Committee would welcome your support and ideas.

- AT the January committee meeting Ray How (site manager) announced that there will be NO increase in Plot Rents this year. Although there was some increase in insurance and NSALG membership this part of the Rents would remain frozen. *Unfortunately there will be an increase in Water Rate fees of 50p to £9.50 for a 5 Rod plot and £19 for a 10 Rod. Invoices will be sent out by the end of February.*
- THERE has been a number of non-association members using the shop. This is very welcoming but they will be charged an Associate Membership fee of £6 to enjoy the same benefits as members. Details and forms for Associate Membership will be available in the shop.
- SHOP SALE - There will be another **20% OFF** shop sale during the month of February so don't miss out. There will also be raffle tickets available for our annual raffle which will take place on Easter Sunday 16th April. First prize will be £25 towards goods in the shop or £25 off your annual fees. Second prize will be £10 and Third prize will be an Easter egg.
- THERE has been a number of requests for the shop to stock flower seeds, and so this year these will be available. Depending on the sales of these will decide whether we stock these every year.
- NOTICE BOARDS – A number of new boards have been put up to replace those in a poor state. Our thanks to Steve and Ernie.
- QUIZ NIGHT - Our annual Quiz Night will be held again this year, details of date and time will be announced later in the year. Please come along and support the evening it helps the Association's funds a great deal and is a fun evening. There are prizes for the winner and a raffle.

**ANOTHER RAFFLE
AT EASTER**

Please turn over

TRADING SHOP – OPENING HOURS

The shop will re-open on Sunday 5th February. There will be a **20% OFF SALE** for the whole month.

Purchase your seeds and other items.

Flower seeds will be available this year.

- NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - This will be held on Thursday 30th March 2017. If plot holders have issues they wish to raise or have useful suggestions for fund raising etc. Please let a committee member know and it will be discussed.
- SITE TOILETS - In the winter months when plot holders use the main toilets **PLEASE** could you remember to flush after use. We know the mains water is turned off but there is water provided in buckets to help flush away. The large water storage tank to the side of the trading hut now has a proper tap fitted so water can be drawn from this with ease. *Please think of others who follow.* Thank you.
- WORKING PARTY DAY - There will be another Working Party Day in the coming months, date and time will be announced.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE

Some members will be aware of the old Sub Station enclosure near to Plots 00, 00, 00, 00. The construction is made of very heavy sheet steel and has been a hazard for some time. Despite this being taped off and notices placed to keep away from it some plot holders have been storing tools in it again. This structure is now in a very dangerous state and we have informed both Southend Council and the HSE of the seriousness of the situation.

Your committee must strongly advise plot holders not to enter or go near this structure at any time, as if it does collapse it will cause serious injury

THINGS TO DO IN FEBRUARY

Harvest cabbages, cauliflowers, brussels sprouts and kale, along with leeks, celeriac, parsnips and swede for warming winter stews.

Sow seeds indoors to raise seedlings for planting out in the spring. Few seeds will germinate if sown outdoors now.

Plant shallots and garlic.

Chit seed potatoes.

Dig over your plot and add plenty of well-rotted organic material.

Cover seedbeds with polythene, carpet (not on our site) or cardboard to warm up the soil.

Force rhubarb and Belgian or Witloof chicory

**ANOTHER RAFFLE
AT EASTER**

February 2017 No 13

TRADING SHOP — OPENING HOURS

The shop will re-open on Sunday 5th February. There will be a

20% OFF SALE for the whole month.

Purchase your seeds and other items.

Flower seeds will be available this year.