

West Mains Allotment Association Occasional Newsletter November 2020

Welcome to the new West Mains Allotment Association Committee

Following the 'virtual' 2020 AGM we have a new committee

Covenor: Alan Gordon

Secretary: Jan Urquhart

Treasurer: Colin MacKenzie

Committee members: Nils Tomes, Maggie Hyne, Mick Kadlobowski & Phil Denning. The new Committee held its first virtual meeting on 3rd November and the minutes of the meeting are available both online and on the noticeboards. The new committee would like to thank our outgoing Secretary, Jane Robinson, for the huge amount of extra work doing this extraordinary AGM by both email and on the noticeboards and keeping it very democratic at the same time.

[Minutes](#) of committee meetings, [committee](#) contact details and the WMAA [privacy notice](#) are available on the website.

Covid 19 - Please use the hand sanitiser every time.

There is alcohol-based anti Covid hand liquid sanitiser behind each gate and hanging from the notice boards. **Please use this on entry and on leaving the allotment site**

Please note the Scottish Government regulations apply to allotments and the link to Scottish Government Tier 3 for the City of Edinburgh is <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/pages/protection-level-3/>

Bonfires update from Fedaga

"The lock-down ban on fires has greatly improved the air quality for both plot holders and residents living nearby our sites. Many of you have commented on how much more pleasant it is without bonfire smoke blowing across their plot. Many others have asked whether the ban could be lifted so that you're able to dispose of diseased plant material and woody prunings.

After consultation with the Council Allotment Service it has been agreed that the ban will be lifted from the 1st October until 30th April every year. Outside these dates no fires are allowed.

You are reminded of the current rules –

- General plant material and weeds should be composted on site

- Plot holders may burn only plant material arising from the plot itself, such as diseased plants and excessively woody material that cannot be composted
- No material may be brought on to the site and no synthetic materials, plastics, paper, treated wood, metals or other non-plant material may be burned. Burning synthetic material and treated wood may give rise to carcinogenic smoke as well as polluting the soil.
- Plot holders are required to give consideration to other plot holders when choosing where and when to have a bonfire and must not leave the fire unattended”

Cabin update

Our site Cabin remains closed for the time being. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Orders for 2021 from Caledonian Horticulture

Now we're into late autumn the committee is organising deliveries of compost again from Caledonian Horticulture.

As detailed below in addition to our usual tonne bags of "Green Goodness" you can order other things from their website including ordinary smaller bags. Details are on their website.

With our bulk buy the cost of a tonne bag of "Green Goodness" is reduced to £30 a tonne bag.

The process is for you to pay your money by bank transfer for however many bags of Green Goodness you want into the West Mains Allotments account.

The correct wording for the account that the banks want is: West Mains Allotment Assoc

The sort code is 83-19-09.

The account number is 00765729. Obviously insert your name as the person paying the money.

If you do not do bank transfer please put a cheque in the metal box on the table in the cabin with your details including a contact phone number.

We anticipate a weekly lorry delivery starting the week of 30th November for two to three weeks depending on demand.

Then send Alan an email to alangordon101@hotmail.co.uk - with the following:

1. Name
2. Plot number.
3. Number of bags.
4. Whether or not you are able to help being the contact person to open the gate for the lorry or not.
5. Deliveries will be on Monday, or Wednesdays or Fridays
6. Give an indication if you have any preference as to which week you prefer your delivery of 30th November or 7th December.

This year we are being adventurous as we are offering you getting other things from their website. This might be tonne bags of, for example, Kelpie Compost or smaller bags of anything. You would best phone Caledonian Horticulture on 0131 608 1111, make and pay the full

price for your order and say it is to go with the large West Mains order that they know about in the sales team and you won't have to pay any delivery charge. Then email Alan as above saying what you have ordered and if you can help with the delivery.

When Alan get the orders in, he will allocate them to appropriate days and be in contact with those who might be able to help with accepting the delivery.

Good Fairy Award

Each year the Committee recognises those on the site who make things a little easier for their neighbours and other plot holders. This year, with the impact of Covid 19, many people have helped others during this difficult time and we have several nominations. Each plot holder has two votes and can vote for two individuals. Please email the secretary with your votes. We will announce the winning individuals in the next newsletter

We have the following nominations:

Rosa

"She has been so welcoming and giving us advice and seedlings since we arrived 2 seasons ago."

"I would like to nominate Rosa for being everyone's auntie, giving plants, seeds, advice etc to anyone who seeks it and for being such an encouraging and cheering presence on our allotment site."

Anna Gebresellassie

"I was ill recently.. Anna dropped off some substantial healthy meals for me and my family using produce from her allotment. She has been like an honorary aunt and definitely a good fairy."

David Turner

"For repairing and upgrading all of the taps at West Mains to ensure we can use water efficiently. For doing a winter maintenance of the pond and repairing the protective fence around it, to make it a safe place for wildlife. "

Rosy Naylor

"for continuing with the invaluable task of looking after the WMAA website"

Peter Stapleton

"for quietly acting as our financial reviewer. It is an essential task and he's done it for several years now without any real recognition".

Please send your votes to the Secretary by 30 November at WMAAsecretary@outlook.com

Please remember to stay safe and well and enjoy the forthcoming festive season!

West Mains Allotment Association Committee

