

Fairfield Allotment Holders Association

Newsletter 11

I reckon it's time we shifted New Year. Everything seems to start in September: Christmas catalogues, autumn sales, brochures for next year's holidays, evening classes are all about - and seed catalogues too, so it's time for good intentions, plus a dose of realism about what we each can do. One of the benefits of being corporate members of the National Association of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners is the discount on seeds, seed potatoes, onion sets & so on that come from Kings. You get cheap seeds & our association gets a small fee for facilitating this. And the catalogues are here. If you look at the prices you'll see discounts of up to 40% and some things are even cheaper. The other advantage is because we're ordering in bulk, you'll have no postage and packing to pay - just a standard fee to facilitate the Association's individual packing costs and distribution. There are organic seeds in there too, so you need look no further to maintain your green credentials.

If you want to order seed through the scheme, fill out the order form at the back of the booklet as instructed and return it along with your payment to either John Lambert or John Weedy (addresses below). Add £1.80 administration fee, and pay by either cash or cheque at the time of ordering. The sooner you do this, the greater the chance of a discount. If you're paying by cheque please make it payable to **Fairfield Allotment Association**.

Please place all orders by 31st October at the latest!!

This is what you do:

1. Choose your seeds and sundries
2. Fill out the order form
3. Keep the rest of the booklet for your records
4. To the total add £1.80 for the association administration
5. Deliver the form & payment by 31 October
6. Wait for us to tell you when your order has arrived.

Send your order to *either*

John Weedy
10 Sibsey Street
Lancaster

or

John Lambert
6 Carr House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1SW

The **waiting list** is now up to **55!** We need that **extra ground** & all the signs are that we'll have it for the **beginning of the 2008** season. Not that that will do everyone on our list the favour they want, but a dozen or so should be happy people. Preparing for all of this will cost us money, however, so if you can **support the recipe book** idea, that would be really useful. Send in your **original** recipes - no copies from books, please, we don't want to break copyright - as soon as you possibly can, there's still a little time.

Were you one of the ones who paid out next to nothing for an enormous **watertank**, before it all got stopped? Well I'm afraid I've some bad news for you. George, who knows about these things having spent the last several years dealing with plastic in all its many forms, tells the committee that these tanks are made from a kind of plastic that breaks down in daylight... If you shroud them in something that keeps all the light out (& most of them come in a frame that makes that straightforward) they'll last, but if you don't they'll start cracking in 2 or 3 years. Well you were wondering what you could do at the plot over the winter, weren't you?

Something else we have to thank George for is making the big **gate** at the Wingate-Saul end of the plots work again, though it's still difficult to open because it's dropped. Thoughts are that maybe someone drove into it - if you should know anything about what happened, or feel skilled & have time to fix it further, please contact John Lambert.

A neighbour of mine on the plots told me of seeing **hedgehogs** recently, which cheered me no end, & not just because they're cute. They Hoover up slugs like nothing else does, so anything we can do to encourage them - like providing a hibernating site - must be good for everyone. The problem is they'll eat slugs that have eaten slug pellets too, & that kills them. So, please go easy on the pelleting, & we should find that nature, in the form of the hedgehogs, will control most of the slugs. I've been told there are hedgehog-friendly pellets available, but I don't know anything about this - can anyone provide enlightenment?

Items for inclusion in the newsletter to me, Roy Stephenson, at the usual address, 112 Westbourne Road, Lancaster, LA1 5JX, or Jenroys@aol.com, whenever you like but the sooner the better. Everything else to our secretary John Lambert - details as above.