



## **RAA update – *January 2023***

Hello everyone and welcome to 2023. This is the first of what we will try to make a regular series of updates between newsletters. *From all of us on the RAA committee*

### **Bonfire extension**

We're extending the current bonfire season until the end of February. This is because of the very wet weather we've been having and the rather damp conditions that's created. Thanks to everyone who replied to the survey and we'll be talking about that and proposals for the future at the AGM.

### **Spring Plot Survey *15 March 2023 to 30 April 2023***

Please read the guidelines below which explains what the plot surveyor is checking when they come to look at your plot. Please be aware that failing the 75% cultivation point can result in eviction warnings being sent to you.

#### **1. 75% Cultivation**

a) The main purpose of your plot must be for the cultivation and growing of vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers. 75% of the ground on your plot must be

dedicated to this.

b) Cultivation refers to the whole cycle of activities throughout the year to grow your crop

- Winter & Spring: Soil preparation for sowing/planting.
- Spring & Summer: Sowing/planting/ growing & weeding. Ground planted up or ready for planting.
- Autumn & Winter: Growing, clearing old growth, weeding, pruning of trees and fruit bushes. General tidying up of your plot

c) An area left covered up most of the year with very little growing in it at any time will not be considered as being cultivated.

## **2. Paths**

a) Grass on all 4 paths around the plot is cut and edges are neat

b) There are no bushes, shrubs, large plants or tree branches sticking out into the path and getting in the way.

c) The plot borders are free of sharp objects such as metal pipes or supports, sharp edged plastic, slate, anything that could cause injuries.

## **3. Plot numbers**

a) Your plot number must be displayed in the corner of the plot that is nearest to the community building.

b) Your sign must be large enough and clear enough to be easily visible from the adjoining path (i.e. numbers at least 6cm in height)

## **4. Hedges, fences, windbreaks no taller than 1 meter high**

a) As required by our lease with Dulwich Estate all plots should look open and not fenced in.

b) Fruit bushes and brambles on the edges of plots are pruned and trained so that it does not go onto the path.

#### **5. Trees are maintained and is not overgrown or shading neighbours**

a) Only crop bearing trees are allowed to be planted.

b) Fruit/nut trees on dwarf rootstock, and are planted and kept pruned or trained so are no higher than approximately 3m (10ft) and do not encroach any paths.

c) Trees should be at least 50cm in from the plot edge. Mature trees are being kept under control and in shape by regular pruning and are not causing excessive shading to other plots.

d) Saplings & suckers from trees should be cut and removed.

e) Branches under 2.5m in height should not overhang other plots, paths or boundary fences

#### **6. Shed or greenhouse**

a) There can be one greenhouse or one shed (but not both).

b) Greenhouses and sheds must not be bigger than 6ft by 8ft and not higher than 7ft.

c) Water butt or equivalent must be attached to collect rain water.

d) Greenhouses and polytunnels used solely for the purpose of storing things will not be considered as part of the 75% cultivation.

## **7. Ponds**

- a) All ponds should be at least 50cm from the edge of the plot with a low fence like structure on the path edge such as a small dead hedge to avoid people or small children falling in.
- b) Ponds should not be larger than 1m x 1m and 60 cm in depth.
- c) They should have a sloping beach like edge created with rocks or stones to allow small animals or bathing birds to make an easy exit and avoid being easily drowned.

## **AGM date**

The AGM has been booked for 18th April 6-9pm at the Rosendale Community Centre.

## **Parking restrictions**

Lambeth has now published the statutory consultation on the proposed CPZ and Healthy Route along Rosendale Road.

[Find out more information](#)

The final proposal is for double yellow lines in the current "parking area" which we've been advised will allow for stores deliveries and members to load/unload for as long as necessary before 11.00 am and for up to 40 minutes after 11.00 am (providing the loading/unloading is continuous). This means that members will not be able park cars and leave them there.

## **Strimmer hire**

Our current volunteers are stepping down so for the hire scheme to continue we need a new team of volunteers to run it on a rota basis. If you are

interested, please get in touch with any of the committee or email [info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com)



# HEDGE PLANTING

# VOLUNTEER DAY

Come and join us to help plant **The Pat Canning Wildlife Hedge** on:  
**Saturday 28th January from 10.00am**

An opportunity for members to volunteer and encourage wildlife on the allotments

Meet at the community building at 10.00 bringing your own spade and gloves.  
A Soup and bread and cheese lunch will be supplied for volunteers from 12.00 in the community Building.

Please email:

[info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com) if you are attending so we can have an idea of numbers

**Look forward to seeing you!**



## Stores re-opening

The stores will be open again for sales from Saturday 4 February – every Saturday and Sunday, from 10.30 to 12.30.

We'll have seed potatoes, onions, shallots and garlic in stock as well as veg, flower & herb seeds, fertilisers, compost, manure etc. You can see our stock list below.

If you are shielding or cautious about the risk of COVID or flu infection, you can place an order for collection by emailing - [stores.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:stores.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com)

We'd welcome donations of interesting seed saved from last year for Liz to sow in the polytunnel. We're keen to grow and supply more courgettes, artichokes,

aubergines, peppers, pumpkins, cucumbers and anything unusual you might have to offer. Please bring any seeds you can spare to the stores during opening hours.

Thank you to all our volunteers and plot holders who supported the stores during 2022. New volunteers are always welcome – just email us if interested.

We look forward to seeing you in the stores soon!

*Sue, Lance and Liz*

[Click here for our stock list](#)

## SKIPS

The first skips of 2023 are coming the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January at both the Rosendale Main entrance and the Peabody gate.

If you miss these, more will come the last weekend of February and March. The skips are for plot holders to use to remove rubbish/bulky items from their plots. The skips may fill up very quickly and when full will be covered with a tarpaulin.

Please see the signs next to the skips for what may or what may not be put in the skips

**WARNING: Plot holders using the skips do so at their own risk. Please take care lifting heavy waste materials into the skips. Wear gloves.**

If you have any further questions regarding skips at RAA please contact Admin at [info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com)

or Telephone 020 8761 6116

