



### **The Financial Working Group**

The setting up of the financial working group was agreed at this year's 2023 AGM. The members of the group are representatives from the committee, stores and the RAA membership and all have financial expertise. They have met a number of times, analysing our overall spend, outgoings and income and have written a comprehensive report which will be circulated to the membership. Their report was approved at the August committee meeting. As a result, we have a working budget for the next financial year 2023/24, an agreed plot rent rise from October and some suggestions on managing our finances going forward. Many thanks to the group all for their hard work and expertise.

To see the [working budget](#) and the [finance report](#)

### **Rent rise from October 2023**

Full plot £125

Full plot and T plot £156.25

Half plot £62.50

Three quarter plot £93.75

T plot £31.25

Administration fee for transfer between plots (existing members) £25

Sharer's fee £15 p.a.

New sharer registration £22

Payment by BACS/direct bank transfer will be accepted, rent requests will be emailed in the last week of September, with bank details.

Rent taking will start on 1<sup>st</sup> October, with in person sessions on:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 11:00 to 1300

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 18:00 to 20:00

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 11:00 to 13:00

All sessions will be held in the Community Building. Payment in person by cash or cheque only.

### **Welcome to our new Treasurer!**

We have not been able to recruit a treasurer to date but Brigid Constantine, a current committee member and member of the finance sub group, has very kindly stepped up to fill this role until the next AGM. We are very grateful to her as this is a key role and a constitutional obligation.

### **RAA Serious Misconduct Policy – Consultation**

Please see the following link to a draft [Serious Misconduct Policy](#).

A final version will be circulated before the AGM. Comments before then to be sent to [chair.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:chair.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com) by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### **The Sustainability Working Group**

For those interested in No Dig growing, Charles Dowding is the go to person for his extraordinary knowledge from 40 years of growing with No Dig principles. It may not be for everyone but its main ethos to feed the soil from above by an annual layer of 2cm of compost supports soil health by not disturbing the teeming subterranean life below the soil's surface.

[Here is a link to his latest newsletter which gives up to date info on what to sow now to extend the growing season into autumn and beyond.](#)



**Annual BBQ Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 12 – 5pm.** Everyone is welcome to attend this event. Please bring your own alcohol and a dish to share. BBQ meat and vegetarian options will be provided along with soft drinks. The apple press will be available so bring apples and containers to make use of this facility. We always need volunteers to help so if you can please contact the membership team [RAAMembership@gmail.com](mailto:RAAMembership@gmail.com)

#### **No bicycling on site please**

There have been a number of 'near-miss' incidents from at least ten people seen cycling on the paths and downhill. The site isn't suitable for cycling; please either park your bike in the bike parking area or walk your bike to and from your plot.

#### **CPZ Update**

Please see the most recent information regarding the new parking restrictions.

<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/parking/where-you-can-load-and-unload-your-vehicle/where-you-can-load-unload>

#### **Stores update**

The stores are open on Saturdays and Sundays, 10.30 - 12.30 throughout September and October. We'll close at the end of October and re-open in February

2024. Onion sets, shallots and garlic will be available from 9 September. We currently have some 800L bulk bags of compost for sale at £55 each and, if there is enough demand, we'll order more compost and manure bulk bags during September. If you'd like to buy one, please email: [stores.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:stores.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com).

### **Strimmer Hire**

**Every Saturday morning from 6 August until 28 October 2023 between 10am and 1pm.**

(Last booking around 12pm. Strimmers to be returned by 1pm)

**Where:** The old committee hut/site workshop opposite the bike racks at Rosendale Rd entrance

**How:** On a **first come, first serve** basis for the rest of this year. We only have three strimmers to hire so come early.

**Cost:** £10 per hour for 1 strimmer (battery powered) plus 2 batteries. **Cash only.**

**We really need your HELP to run Rosendale Allotments and you can volunteer in a number of different ways, as follows:**

**Lettings Officer.** We need another lettings officer to assist the current team. The role involves managing the waiting list, welcoming new plot holders and managing their probation. Please contact [Lettings@rosendale-allotments.org.uk](mailto:Lettings@rosendale-allotments.org.uk)

**Website.** The website is up and running now and we need someone to manage it. This should not take up a lot of time and there is no need to join the committee. Please contact [chair.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:chair.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com)

### **Shop Volunteers**

Sue and Lance do a brilliant job running the shop but they do need regular volunteers to help keep the shop open on Saturdays and Sundays during the

growing season. Please contact stores to join the team  
[stores.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:stores.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com).

### **Staff Line Management**

We have three part-time members of staff. We need a line manager who is experienced in this area to meet the staff regularly, coordinate their work, organise payroll etc. and report back to the committee on their work. Please contact [chair.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:chair.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com).

### **Autumn Plot Survey**

The next site survey dates are between 15 September 2023 to 30 October 2023.

Your plot can be surveyed at any time during this period. **\*Important Note\*** If you did not pass the 75% cultivation on your plot for the Summer Survey and you don't pass the 75% cultivation requirement again for the Autumn Survey, this will trigger the eviction process.

Please read the email/letter you will receive from us carefully to prevent eviction.

### **Site Staff and Allotment Management**

John Blackhurst continues to work 18 hours a week, Thursday, Friday and alternate Saturdays until 1<sup>st</sup> November, his hours will then drop to 12hrs a week. Marco Camara, site officer, works six hours a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Marco Barella, our Admin Officer, works Monday 12-3pm, Wednesday 9am–1pm, Friday 10am–1pm. These days and hours can vary if the community room is booked out for an external hire, so please call ahead, 020 8761 6116. Members' enquiries and site issues can be passed to the relevant committee officer via [info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com](mailto:info.rosendaleallotments@btconnect.com).

## **Useful links and reminders**

**Peabody Gate opening times:** to bring in/remove larger heavier items. The gate is open 10am to 12pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays each month and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

**Facebook:** The Rosendale group is just for our plot holders and sharers. To join, go to Rosendale Allotment Association and click the 'Join Group' button.

**Dung Ho!** Is a WhatsApp group to let RAA members know when manure has been delivered to the Peabody Gate. Deliveries are unpredictable so the idea is that whoever spots the delivery first lets others know about it through the app. If you would like to join this group, please reply to this newsletter email. Please note the group is purely for manure delivery info only!