

**COURT OAK AND TENNAL LANE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
SIXTH NEWS LETTER SEPTEMBER 2014**

<http://www.buddlejagarden.co.uk/allotment/home.html>

Welcome to our sixth newsletter! It'll soon be time to pay your rent for next season. They have gone up again – please do complain to your local councillor because we have no control over this. As is traditional we shall be collecting the rents at the Court Oak Shed every Sunday morning between 11:00 and 12:00 in October and we will be available to collect rents at Tennial Lane on two Saturday mornings, much like last year.

We would ask that you pay your rent through the Association otherwise we don't receive commission on it. This commission is essential to run the Association as it pays for things like administration, printing these newsletters and carrying out maintenance on the sites. Also there have been major staff cuts in the Allotments Office and they could do without handling individual rents. And don't forget that if you are late (after the end of October) you have to pay a £10 late payment penalty charge. If you can't make any of these times contact the Secretary to arrange payment.

Cheques should be made payable to CORTLAA.

Rent Collection Times 2014

Court Oak Road Sunday	28th September	11:00 am – 12 Noon
	5th October	11:00 am – 12 Noon
	12th October	11:00 am – 12 Noon
	19th October	11:00 am – 12 Noon
	26th October	11:00 am – 12 Noon
Tennial Lane Saturday	4th October	11:00 am – 12 Noon
	18th October	11:00 am – 12 Noon

Rents for 2014-2015

	Full	Over 60/65*
Large	£97.00	£48.50
Standard	£81.00	£40.50
Small	£54.00	£27.00
Mini	£43.00	£21.50

***Tenants aged 60 or over at 1st October 2014 will continue to receive a 50% rebate. Those who reach age 60 after this date will NOT be entitled to the 50% rebate until the tenancy year after they reach 65.**

**Secretary: Andrew Large Tel. 07587 212774
E-mail: largeat@yahoo.co.uk**

First Open Day

Our first Open Day on the 31st of August was a great success, raising money and recruiting new plot-holders. Thanks must go to everyone who helped, donated prizes or things to sell, or simply turned up. Special mention must go to the delicious cakes. We should all thank John McQuay (our Treasurer), Geoff Garrish and Marian Stanley for leading the Open Day organisation; and also Andrew Moseley and Stuart Guest for all their help preparing the site for the day. Raising the awareness of the Allotments is a huge priority and will benefit both sites. If we have a lot of vacancies we could lose one of our sites. And opening to the public opens up numerous funding possibilities.

Road Spraying

We have had major problems with the council spraying programme and now will be doing the road spraying ourselves. If you have plot by the road on either site can you please keep the kerb clear of weeds. And please don't plant right up to the path, leave about 50cm clear to allow spraying without any risk to your plants. Weed spraying is essential maintenance that we are contracted to do; keeping your own kerb clear will help immensely.

Call for Volunteers

Allotments in Birmingham are now entirely dependent on volunteers and receive no subsidy from the Council. If we don't have an active association we could lose the allotments. We must have more people coming forward to help with site maintenance, general tidying and in the shop. Please, if you have an hour or two to spare at the weekend do volunteer. You don't have to sit on the committee to help!

Keys for Tennial Lane

There have been security concerns at Tennial Lane so we are planning to change the gate lock – there must be a hundred keys for the current lock that have never been returned. We will provide each plot-holder with one new key free-of-charge at the rent collection, and will change the lock when everybody has the new key.

Shop Opening Times

The shop will be open Sundays 11:00am to noon until the end of November and then will close for December and January. It will re-open, same times, in February 2015 (weather permitting).

Contact:

Secretary: Andrew Large Tel. 07587 212774

E-mail: largeat@yahoo.co.uk