

BRIAR ROAD ALLOTMENT HOLDER'S ASSOCIATION

Dear Plot Holders,

We hope everyone is well – the site is getting busy again as Autumn approaches and plots start to be cleared ready for the winter.

COMMUNAL COMPOST BINS: This is a heartfelt appeal for everyone to be mindful of what material gets put in the communal compost bins please.

We understand that it's difficult to get rid of all the waste generated, especially since the bonfire ban came in, but there are some woody items such as raspberry canes or sweetcorn stalks that will never compost down. In addition, pernicious weeds like bindweed or horsetail make the compost unusable. We know most people understand, but unfortunately there are still a few that don't.

We've been told by the council that we should get a woody waste collection towards the end of October / beginning of November, so if you can't dispose of your woody waste yourselves, please hang on to it until then.

It takes a lot of volunteer hours to maintain the communal compost heaps and it's incredibly demoralising to see them abused. Most other allotment sites don't offer this facility and if this problem continues, sadly we'll have no option than to get rid of them altogether.

The free compost bins that we had available went incredibly quickly, but we understand that there are often reasonably priced bins available at the Townmead recycling centre – https://richmond.gov.uk/services/waste_and_recycling/recycling_and_refuse_sites/townmead_road/available_to_buy_at_townmead_road

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL / RAFFLE: Hold the date! Sunday 4th December: We're planning to hold our Christmas social at the hut on Sunday 4th December. There will be a raffle, mince pies and mulled wine! Weather permitting we're also hoping to have a BBQ.

We'd be grateful for any items suitable for the raffle – you can leave them in the hut with a note or let Gill Ware on plot 31 have them in advance.

BRIAN'S LEGACY: Hopefully most of you will have seen the lovely new bench and inscription on Plot 35 – we're hoping to get the pathways laid soon, so watch this space!

Thanks also to everyone that came forward with suggestions for the money that Brian left – the most popular and practical of the suggestions was a poly tunnel on the accessible plot that could be made available to all, so we plan to be working that out over the next few months.

BONFIRES: We've been asked to remind everyone that bonfires aren't permitted on any allotment sites in the Borough. As above, the council are planning a woody waste collection towards the end of October, so please hang on to your waste until then or dispose of it yourself off-site.

HOSEPIPE BAN: Thames Water have announced that the hosepipe ban will continue into 2023 but they are still allowing the use of a hose on allotments to water food being grown (where essential – whatever that means!)

Thanks for your continued support and we hope to see you at our Christmas event

Kind Regards

BRAHA Committee

Website - <https://e-voice.org.uk/braha/>