

## Allotment Shop manager's report to the APAA 2024 AGM

### **The allotments shop**

The APAA operates a shop on site to sell horticultural products at the low prices which bulk-buying allow. Bulky composts and manure are particularly important for plot-holders with no car, because they can simply use a wheelbarrow.

Plot-holders pay an annual subscription to buy at reduced prices from the Shop. This year the annual subscription was increased from £2 to £3.

The shop is operated entirely by volunteers. The shop manager receives an annual honorarium, out of which petty cash purchases for the shop can be made.

### **Thanks**

I'd like to thank all of the 2023-24 shop rota volunteers: Liz Woodford & Jess York; Annie Evans & Sally Chubb; Simon Geller; Pam Jackson, Pamela Harling & Theresa Ball; Theresa Pateman & Fran Mullins.

### **Suppliers**

A change of suppliers was forced upon us when Horticultural Supplies ceased trading last October. It had been the supplier of all products stocked by the shop, for many decades. In their closing months, we bought much more stock than usual from Hort Supplies because they offered discounts to help clear their warehouse.

The closure of Hort Supplies has made ordering products more challenging, as the following list shows:

- straw from College Farm, Finchley – I can pay & collect only 2 bales at a time in my Toyota Yaris, with APAA reimbursements afterwards
- packeted seeds from Kings Seeds – delivery by post to my address, with an invoice to pay
- seed potatoes from ISJ Horticulture (Perth, Scotland) – pallet delivery by tractor-trailer outside the park's Hornsey Gate, with an invoice to pay
- spring onion and shallot sets from Boston Bulbs, Lincolnshire – ordered & paid for by Shepherds Hill Allots and shared with the APAA, which reimburses them.
- bagged composts from Thompsons of Crews Hill. Deliveries to the shop door by 3.5 tonne van. The APAA treasurer Jim Jenks must order and pre-pay. (Thompsons do not issue invoices.)

All other horticultural products can only be restocked by KG Loach of Congleton, Cheshire. Any order would be pallet delivered by tractor-trailer outside Hornsey Gate.

Deliveries have become challenging because suppliers give wide time windows for delivery; this means increased waiting times for the people who volunteer to help with unloading. Pallet deliveries outside the park's Hornsey Gate are particularly challenging because everything must be transferred to a volunteer's vehicle in order to get it to the Shop door.

### **The role of Shop Manager**

I've been the APAA's volunteer shop manager since 2016. Before that date, the Shop was operated by CHADAHS and I had been its shop coordinator from 2012 to 2016. During the coming year, I'd like to hand over the shop manager role, something that would best be done by having a deputy (or 2 deputies) initially work shadowing me.

Peter Campbell July 2024

