



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 31

February 2017

ALLOTMENT UPDATE

Our Annual General Meeting was held on October 12th.

Key points:- We thanked Ray Finney retiring as chairman after 5 years service and elected Neil Fletcher to the post. Other committee members were re-elected unopposed. Reports were received from all officers (full details available from our Secretary Simon Whittick). The main point of discussion was the decline in shed sales.

Other news. Gnosall Parish Council has advised us that they will be doing 2 monthly inspections of the allotments; we hope to have a GAGA representative join the inspections.

PROFILE



Neil Fletcher is our new chairman. Neil is a qualified design engineer; he has live in Gnosall for 16 years and held an allotment since 2010. He knows all about being flooded, this has happened to him a few times, "hopefully that's all behind us now".

Neil's been on the committee 2 years and you may have seen him running the shed on a Sunday, showing people around at the open gardens event and helping at the carnival plant sale. He is also known for driving a large red van and cycling with his children on the school run.

Neil's gardening interest is growing food for the table. We all know it tastes better, but Neil is also interested in the economics and seeks new ways and methods of growing affordably. "Brexit will possibly make our efforts more worthwhile. In recent years there has never been a better time to think about growing your own food."

St Lawrence Church decoration for Harvest Festival.

Our displays in the church windows were much appreciated, with the produce going to a food charity at the end of the weekend. Thank you to all who helped or donated produce.



DATE FOR THE DIARY

We hope to have another active season and continue to look for support from all members

Shed Open Day Sunday March 13th

We plan to have an Open Shed event on Sunday March 19th (10 am – 3 pm- weather permitting) to show off the goods we sell in the shed and to meet with members to discuss what they want from the Association. There will be free tea/coffee and cakes.

Garden Talk with Macmillan Cancer Support

We are currently looking for a speaker and plan to hold another talk to raise money for this charity. Details will be sent to you shortly.

Gnosall Carnival Saturday June 17th

Plans for Gnosall Carnival are proceeding which will including the 10K Run and a Bubble Football tournament. The theme this year is "The World of Disney"

We will be once again manning the Plant Stall and will be looking for donations of plants to sell.

WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN OR ALLOTMENT

Sow broad beans in pots in mild areas, placing them in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse.

Sow seed indoors for early crops eg: lettuces, summer brassicas (e.g. cabbages and cauliflowers), spinach, salad onions and turnips.

Sow onion seed in a heated propagator.

Prune apples, pears currants, gooseberries and autumn raspberries.

Cover ground with carpets, horticultural matting or polythene to help it dry out and warm up for early planting.

G.A.G.A. Committee members

Neil Fletcher..... 13 Chairman

Ray Finney..... A

Email rayfinney@hotmail.co.uk

Simon Whittick .. 51 Secretary

Phone 01785 823466

Email gnosallallotments@gmail.com

Lynn Whittick....

Susan Howlett.... Treasurer

Phil Barnes..... 55

Bob Colman..... J

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Ann Newman..... B/D

Ray Woodward.. 11

The committee is keen to help all members and keep you informed on what is happening. If you have any questions, please do contact us at the shed or by phone/e-mail.

SHED

The shed will be opening when the weather improves at the end of February. We hope you will come and purchase your garden supplies from us as we can offer better prices than local shops and garden centres.

For example:

Growmore general purpose fertilizer

Shed price: £2.50 for 3 kgs

Garden Centre £6.99 for 3kg

Wilco £8 for 6kg= £4.00 for 3kg

Other products show similar price differences.

Our full pricelist is on the website

<https://gnosallallotments.org.uk/prices/>

Next newsletter will include a guide to what we sell.

RECIPE

Celeriac and roasted garlic soup with chives and pine nuts

For a comforting winter soup, celeriac is an ideal ingredient. Toasted pine nuts add texture with each bite, though you could throw over some cheesy croutons too.

Serves 4

Prepare 10 minutes **Cook** 40 minutes

1 garlic bulb

1½ tbsp olive oil

1 large onion, chopped

4 celery stalks, finely diced

½ tsp celery salt

1 celeriac (about 700g), chopped

1 litre fresh vegetable stock

25g pack chives, chopped

50g pine nuts, toasted

Preheat the oven to 190°C, gas mark 5.

Cut off and discard the top 1/3 of the garlic bulb. Drizzle with ½ tbsp olive oil, season, wrap in foil and roast for 40 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the remaining 1 tbsp oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion, celery, celery salt and a grinding of black pepper, then sauté for 8 minutes. Add the celeriac, stock and 250ml water; simmer for 25 minutes or until very soft.

When the garlic is cooked, squeeze the cloves from their skin into the celeriac pan. Puree everything in a food processor or blender until smooth; season. Pour into 4 bowls, scatter with the chives and pine nuts and drizzle over a little extra olive oil, if liked.

Per serving 857kj/206kcals/14.9g fat/1.6g saturated fat/12.2g carbs/ 7.1g sugars/9.3g fibre/5.8g protein/1.2g salt

Recipe from "MYWAITROSE"

MESSAGE TO ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

When leaving the allotment, PLEASE CLOSE THE GATE.

Once again we have been told of tools being taken from plots. If we keep the gate closed, it discourages strangers from entering the allotments.