



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 30

Summer 2016

ALLOTMENT UPDATE SHED

The shed was opened for the last time this season on Sunday August 7th. Response for the last two openings were very poor so we will not be opening on Sunday mornings any more this season. You can still get all the items for sale by contacting one of the committee members, but we will need you to come with the correct change.

As well as the usual supplies, we have stock of ***Autumn Lawn Feed, which should be used to build up your lawn before the ravages of the winter.***

AUTUMN LAWN FEED NOW AVAILABLE

DATE FOR THE DIARY

OUR AGM will be on Wednesday October 12th.

EVENTS

We have had a busy season, taking part in many events starting with

Shed Open Day Sunday March 13th

We welcomed a good number of members on the day despite the slow start to the season. They enjoyed a cup of coffee/ tea and some great cakes baked by members.

Garden Talk with Macmillan Cancer Support

If you did not manage to get to our talk on May 26th by Mike Herbert, you missed a most enjoyable and educational evening. Mike, who is Regional Director for St Modwen and Director of Trentham Estate, gave us an illustrated history of the estate and its previous owners. This was followed by a description of how the St Modwen group had restored the gardens and developed the rest of the estate to ensure their long term viability. The evening was well attended and we were able to donate £300 to Macmillan Cancer Support, Gnosall to help them with their local fundraising

Gnosall Carnival Saturday June 19th

The Plant Stall at the carnival was a great success this year with over £300 raised for the St Lawrence Church restoration and repair. Thank you to those who donated plants, and to all those who manned the stall.

Summer Barbeque

This year the weather was kinder for our Family Barbeque which we held on Sunday July 17th. Over 25 members and family turned up to enjoy Burgers and sausages cooked by our master chef Simon, as well as a wide selection of salads cakes and other food provided by several other members. All left well fed after a most sociable afternoon.

St Lawrence Church decoration for Harvest Festival.

YOUR SUPPORT/VEGETABLES ARE NEEDED

This year there is a special Harvest Festival celebration at the church with the new Bishop Michael of Lichfield, who is visiting the church two days before his enthronement. We have been asked to decorate the windowsills of the church with produce to reflect the work of our association.

The church will be decorated with displays from several local groups and open to the public at various times from Thursday September 22nd till Sunday September 25th.

We need your help by providing any spare vegetables or flowers to help with our display. We need them on Wednesday September 21st

either by bringing them to the church on the Wednesday afternoon or, if this is not convenient, then contact one of the committee and we will arrange to collect them. All the produce will go to a food charity after the Harvest Festival.

If you would like to help set up the display, please contact a committee member as soon as possible.

G.A.G.A. Committee members

Ray Finney..... A Chairman
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Simon Whittick .. 51 Secretary
Phone 01785 823466
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Lynn Whittick....
Susan Howlett.... Treasurer
Phil Barnes..... 55

Bob Colman..... J
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Neil Fletcher..... 13
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.

MESSAGE TO ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

When leaving the allotment, PLEASE CLOSE THE GATE. There have been reports of damage to plots and produce being taken. If we keep the gate closed, it discourages strangers from entering the allotments.

We would also like to remind you that any waste or rubbish must be kept on your own allotment plot or taken home for disposal.

OUR WEBSITE

In keeping with the modern age, GAGA has a website with information on events, shed prices and opening times and other helpful information.

Why not have a look at what we offer if you are up to speed with computer technology (if not- get your children or grandchildren to show you!)

Visit <http://gnosallallotments.org.uk> or (if you use a smart phone or tablet, scan the QR code below.



The Association does not run itself. It is your Association and behind the scenes, committee members organise potato & seed orders, stock and staff the shed through the season, organise events for members and local charities and they liaise with Gnosall Parish Council (who manage the

allotments) over issues and problems.

Many of the committee have been involved since the association was reformed in 2009 and we could do with some "new blood" to help us.

In particular *we would like to increase the involvement of garden members*, and do not currently have a committee member to represent their interests. We also would like more volunteers, not on committee, to help in the shed, we could have more opening times, help with working parties to keep the allotments tidy and much more.

If you, or anyone that you know, would like to help in any way, please contact any member of the committee or send an email to our secretary Simon Whittick at gnosallallotments@gmail.com or phone (01785 823466)

WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN OR ALLOTMENT

Harvesting

Continue with the harvesting of all vegetable crops and keep up with the picking of runner beans to maintain cropping well into the autumn. Continue with the lifting of potatoes. If you see signs of blight, remove the tops immediately and remove from your plot. Prepare to lift onions towards the end of the month. Wait until the tops begin to fall over as this indicates that the bulb has stopped swelling. Dry them before 'stringing' and putting into store. These bulbs will then keep until next March.

Harvest soft fruit. The late fruiting raspberries will be cropping well by now.

Sowing and Planting

Make the last of any outdoor sowings to provide a late harvest for this season, radishes and lettuce will still produce a crop. (advice from National Allotment Society)

GREEN MANURE

Sow green manures in autumn to revitalise your soil over winter!

Green manures have been used by farmers and allotment holders for centuries, they include a wide variety of crops known for their beneficial effects on soil. Best sown in the autumn on recently cultivated soil, they disrupt pest and disease life cycles, improve soil fertility and nutrient levels and suppress weeds.

There are various mixes available from seed companies such as D T Brown.