



# Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 39

January 2020

## NEWS UPDATE

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020. After a long and wet autumn and winter where we could not get to many of the allotments without a boat, we are starting to think about the new growing season. Members seed orders have now been delivered and seed potatoes will be delivered from the wholesaler with the first shed order at the end of February. The first shed opening will be announced during February when we can see what the weather is doing. The committee has continued to meet every month to plan for the year ahead and improve the service for members. The biggest change since last season is that members can now get discount at Swanpit Nursery (see note below)

## MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE

**Following our AGM in October, we are pleased to welcome three new members to our committee.**

Cathy Shaw

I moved to the village 3 years ago and set about transforming my overgrown garden, creating new spaces including a veggie plot with raised beds. Gardening contributes massively to my overall sense of wellbeing and who doesn't love the fresh air?



Darren Walker & Liz Gardner  
Profiles to follow in newsletters later in the season.

## SHED OPEN DAY

**This will be an early season Open Day on Sunday March 29th with the shed open from 10am till 3 pm. There will be several special offers and discounts as well as tea/coffee and cakes. Bring your friends along and take a look at some of the allotments.**

Have you spent your 2019 discount voucher yet? If not, come to the shed before the end of March and see what we have to offer. A full list is shown on the website with members' prices.

Details of this season's opening days will be displayed on the notice board by the allotment shed and online on our website <https://gnosallallotments.org.uk/shed-opening/>

Remember that we can still supply goods from the shed during the winter months. Just contact one of the committee members and we will arrange to get the items from the shed to you—but you will need to have the right change and pay for the goods (NO CREDIT!)

## DISCOUNT OFFER FOR MEMBERS

GAGA members can now get 10% discount on purchases at Swanpit Nursery. Just show your membership card when you pay.

It is well worth a visit as they offer a wide range of plants, flower pots, planters, fencing, stones and gravels as well as garden sundries. This is still a real garden centre growing many of their own plants.

## SITE SECURITY

Several members have suggested to us that we need to do something to improve security on the allotments. Over the next few weeks committee members will be setting up several security cameras which we have purchased recently. You can help too if you see strangers in the allotments, please keep an eye on them or challenge them.

## WHAT TO DO – JANUARY & FEBRUARY

As the weather has been so wet it is important to keep of the soil as much as possible to avoid compacting it.

Get ready for the new season by cleaning pots seed trays and greenhouses. If the weather improves you can do winter pruning of fruit trees, start cutting back clematis and roses as well as a general tidy up of hardy perennials and grasses.

Start sowing seeds in the greenhouse of "warm weather" vegetables such as chillies, peppers, tomatoes and also broad beans for an early crop.

## SHED NEWS

Have you bought anything from our shed- you should come one Sunday to see the amazing low prices that we offer on compost, canes, fertilizer and a mass of other items for the garden? This season we will also be stocking a selection of green manure seeds, mulch and John Innes compost. Let us know if there is anything else you would like us to stock.

## EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Once the weather improves you may want to borrow our hire equipment for your garden or allotment.

We now have several pieces of equipment that members can borrow for half a day at a time (we ask for a donation of £10 to cover wear and tear, depreciation and fuel costs).

We will run through how to use the equipment safely before you take it to use.

**Petrol rotavator - for cultivating/"digging" ground**

**Petrol strimmer- for cutting back long grass and overgrown areas**

## NEW Electric rake/scarifier – for removing thatch, moss and weeds from lawns.

If you need more information about how and why you would use any of this equipment, talk to Ray Finney or any other committee member.

## COMMITTEE

G.A.G.A. Committee members

Simon Whittick .. 51 Chairman  
Phone 01785 823466

Lynn Whittick.... Secretary  
Email [lynnwhittick@live.co.uk](mailto:lynnwhittick@live.co.uk)  
Or [gnosallallotments@gmail.com](mailto:gnosallallotments@gmail.com)  
Ray Finney..... A  
Email [rayfinney@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rayfinney@hotmail.co.uk)

Phil Barnes..... 55

Bob Colman..... J  
Phone 01785 823955  
Email [bob.colman@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.colman@btinternet.com)

Ian Smith ..... Q Treasurer

Sallyann Brannon .... 51

Mike Wanless  
Cathy Shaw  
Darren Walker  
Liz Gardner

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.

## GAGA ONLINE

Did you know that we now have a FACEBOOK site where you can find our latest news and information?

Have you visited our website?

<https://gnosallallotments.org.uk>

It contains information on current events, shed opening times, prices and useful safety information about the chemical fertilizers and other products we sell.