



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 40(Rev March 17th)

March 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Everyone should be aware by now of the implications of the coronavirus and the precautions advised by the Government.

The committee has considered the situation (as on March 17th) and **decided to cancel the special Open Day** at the shed, which was to be held on March 29th.

Some members of the committee fall within the "at risk" category and have had to stand aside from GAGA activities, but other members of the committee will hope to continue the running of the Association including routine opening of the shed on Sunday mornings from 10 till 12.

If you are an "over 70 members", or somebody considered "at risk" and confined to home, and you would like to purchase items from the shed, the committee will try to arrange deliver of your order to your home. Just email or phone Simon or Lynn.

OTHER NEWS UPDATE

First an apology: The newsletter we sent out last week was a copy of the January newsletter (how many of you noticed?). However this has allowed us to update the newsletter and report on our action in response to the coronavirus situation.

At this time of year we must look forward to improving weather and the gardens and allotments starting to dry out after an extremely wet winter. Our shed is now opening every Sunday morning, fully stocked with things you need to get your garden going again. The wet weather will have washed out nutrients, so it would be a good idea to apply fertiliser.

Members are reminded that subscriptions will be due on April 1st. Allotment members will have this included in their allotment fees, but garden members need to pay us directly. The good news is that subscription remains at £3.50 for the year. For this you will get all the benefits of discount seeds and seed potatoes, goods from the shed

at wholesale prices and the ability to hire equipment at very low prices (in fact one afternoon's equipment loan or your annual seed order would save you more than the subscription). As well as that, you will get a £1 voucher to spend in our shed and save more money.

We are looking to you to spread the word about our benefits, so when you have read this newsletter, why not forward it to friends and relatives who live in the area. Remind them that you don't have to live in Gnosall to be a garden member.

MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE

Darren Walker

I've only lived in Gnosall for almost 2 years. During my time in the village I've enjoyed getting our garden allotment up and running. We're hoping for a bumper crop this year.

I've helped with a number of allotments over the years helping grandparents and parents. I enjoy the outdoors and the benefits it brings, growing your own is so rewarding and any help on cutting back on needless food packaging in my eyes is a must.

Liz Gardner

I have lived in Gnosall for almost 15 years but have only recently enjoyed the allotments. I have grown salad crops and veg for the last 12 years at home and enjoy nothing more than spending a few hours in my greenhouse although pricking out and discarding weak seedlings still makes me feel guilty.

SHED OPEN DAY

CANCELLED

SHED NEWS

New this year- bark chippings, John Innes compost and green manure seeds.

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.

We will now be opening every Sunday until late June.

You can find a full list of what we sell and our prices on our website:

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

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, flowerpots, planters, fencing, stones and gravels as well as garden sundries. This is still a real garden centre growing many of their own plants.

WHAT TO DO – MARCH

Because it has been so wet, keep off the soil until it is workable, to avoid compacting it and worsening the conditions remain in the soil.

Wet weather will have washed out much of the nutrients in the soil. Apply organic matter to improve the soil structure or a balanced fertiliser.

Start sowing seeds in greenhouse or on the windowsill.

Lawns are likely to have moss growth. Once the weather warms up you can apply a combined lawn feed and moss killer. Once the moss has been killed, rake it out.

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.

GAGA ONLINE

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

<https://www.facebook.com/gnosallallotmentsandgardens>

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.

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