



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 41

June 2020

NEWS UPDATE

Life has been rather strange since our last newsletter with many people isolating at home. One consequence has been that many of us have had a lot of time to work in our gardens and at the allotment. Our plots look much tidier than normal and many people have decided to grow their own, perhaps for the first time.

Although we were unable to open the shed for many weeks, thanks to the effort of some committee members, especially Simon & Lynn, members have been able to purchase goods and have them delivered or collected. With restrictions eased we have now started opening the shed again. One of the effects of the lockdown has been that we have sold more products than ever. As a result, we have now run out of compost and growbags; this year we have sold 70 bags of compost, which is nearly twice our average annual sales. We are trying to reorder, but with factories closed during lockdown we cannot be certain if we can currently get any more stock. We would recommend visiting Swan Pit Nursery, but last week they were also out of stock!

The weather this season has also been unusual; the winter rains stopped in March at the time of the lockdown and as I write this newsletter we have hardly seen a drop of rain since then. Our gardens and allotment plots are dry. Remember that it is better to water thoroughly every few days, rather than a small sprinkle every day. Many plants will send roots deep down to find the damp below.

COVID-19 AND SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE ALLOTMENTS

We would ask all people working on their allotment to be mindful of other allotment holders and keep to social distancing rules. We would recommend that only people from the same household be working on an allotment at any one time and that this should be restricted to two people at most. If you have a shared entry to your allotment with another allotment, then be

especially aware of your neighbour if they are on their allotment at the same time you are on yours.

Please don't wash or rinse your hands in the troughs.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Unfortunately, Darren Walker and Cathy Shaw have had to resign from the committee due to pressure of other commitments. We are therefore looking for one or two members to join the committee and help us run the association. It is not a particularly challenging role with occasional committee meetings and occasional help with activities such as opening the shed and distribution of seed/potato orders.

SHED NEWS

Now that restrictions for garden centres have been lifted we feel that we can open the shed on Sunday morning from 10.00 to 12.00. You will be able to purchase the usual products that we sell. We have, however, run out of bags of compost and grow bags.

We would prefer, if paying by cash, that you have the correct amount.

Please respect social distancing rules while waiting at the shed. You will not be allowed into the shed. Please be patient while waiting, if you have to, as there will only be one volunteer serving. If you are unable to come to the shed because you are self-isolation we will be continuing with our delivery service. Just email

lynnwhittick@live.co.uk or

simonwhittick@gmail.com

or phone 01785 823466. A price list can be found on our website. 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 – JUNE

Planting out young runner bean plants and frost-sensitive crops such as courgettes and sweet corn.

Harvesting early crops of peas.

Hoe between crops.

Protecting strawberries from mud with straw and from birds with netting.

Watch out for aphids, caterpillars, and other pests on your plants.

Finish planting out bedding plants

Cut hedges if you are sure there are no birds nesting in them.

Feed lawn, best if some rain is expected in next few days.

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

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.

COMMITTEE

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Mike Wanless

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.

