



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 42

Autumn 2020

NEWS UPDATE

As restrictions due to COVID continue and we do not often meet members face to face, we want to remind you that GAGA is still active and we are already planning for the next growing season.

We hope that you have enjoyed the pleasure of growing your own flowers and vegetables this year and will be keen to do so again next year.

We will shortly be delivering to you seed catalogues to order seeds for next year at a great discount price – see details below.

The problem of flooding has been a major worry to all allotment holders, with many plots suffering water damage and losses; access to all allotments has been seriously affected and, for many weeks, only possible by wading through flood water. We have recently contacted all the public authorities and councils who may have any responsibility. So far the only reply has come from the Environment Agency *“As the flooding described in the letter doesn’t affect any properties it’s very unlikely the Environment Agency would intervene in this situation. We must use our resources where they are most effective in protecting properties from flooding.”* We will continue to press the Parish Council and the other authorities that we contacted. It may help if individual allotment holders lodged a complaint with the Parish council, asking for a reduction of fees.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & COVID-19

One victim of the current ‘rule of 6 regulations’ is that we are unable to hold an Annual General Meeting. We hope that members understand and will accept this departure from our constitution. The current committee members have all agreed to continue in their roles until things return to normal.

The committee has met by Zoom and considered the items we normally review at the AGM.

We will circulate full reports to members in the next few weeks, but the key points are summarised below.

- Our finances are in good shape with a small profit made on sales of seed, potatoes, and items in the shed.
- The treasurer has recommended that membership subscriptions are held at the same level as the last few years, namely an annual fee of £3.50 with members receiving a £1 voucher to spend in the shed.
- Because it has been difficult to get to the shed this year, the shed voucher you received with this year’s membership will be valid for you to spend until the end of May 2021.
- There are two vacancies on the committee. We are inviting members to step forward and join us in running GAGA. If there are more than two volunteers, we will organise an election.
- If members have issues they would have raised at the AGM, they are invited to send them to the secretary and the committee will seek to answer them and advise members.
- We will arrange an AGM at a future date when the current situation allows.

SEED & POTATO ORDERS

Although next spring seems a long time away, we will be contacting you soon with seed catalogues and order forms. By ordering early we get a significant discount on seed orders, which we can pass on to members. This year we have improved our discount to members and hope that you will take advantage and place an order with us.

This year – for all seeds ordered:

You will get a discount of 40% on catalogue prices for all seeds you order

GAGA will pay the delivery charge of 95p per order if your order is at least £5 (before discount)

You must return your order to us by November 16th

We have a little longer before we need will be taking orders for seed potatoes so that potato order forms will be delivered to you separately later in the month or at the beginning of November.

COMMITTEE NEWS

As we reported in the last newsletter, two members of our committee had to stand down and we have two vacancies. The committee normally meets once a month, usually for less than one hour, to discuss items for the coming month and agree on tasks we need to do. We are looking for some new blood to help us with this and ensure that GAGA keeps serving our members.

SHED UPDATE

The shed will not be opening again until next spring, but we realize that members may want the odd bag of compost or other items.

Just email

lynwhittick@live.co.uk or

simonwhittick@gmail.com

or phone 01785 823466.

They will then arrange for collection or delivery of the items you want. You can find a full list of what we sell and our prices on our website:

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

We restocked the shed in August so all items are available.

DISCOUNT OFFER FOR MEMBERS

Have you taken advantage of the discount offered at Swan Pit Nursery yet.

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

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Don't forget that we 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.

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Petrol rotavator - for cultivating/"digging" ground
Petrol strimmer- for cutting back long grass and overgrown areas
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

Have you visited our FACEBOOK site where you can find our latest news and information?

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

and 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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Ian Smith Q Treasurer
Sallyann Brannon 51
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 by phone/e-mail.