



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 44

May 2021

NEWS UPDATE

It has been a cold spring, so the daffodils, tulips and other spring bulbs have lasted well. But now we see signs of growth everywhere and planting of summer vegetable and flower seeds should be well underway. We have welcomed many new garden members, and the shed has been busy selling compost, fertilizer and other garden sundries.

We saw many of our members on the recent Open Day and sold £150 of goods, with most members exchanging one of their shed vouchers. If you have not done so yet, come along on Sunday morning between 10 and 12 to see what we have; our prices will not be beaten at the garden centre.

We have recently restocked to ensure we have supplies to keep us going through the season. The news from our wholesaler is not so good as they have warned that prices will be increasing across all products by the time we order again. For now, we have managed to hold prices, but our advice is not to put off those purchases.

If you are planning to apply lawn fertilizer, we can now lend you a lawn feed spreader. Just ask about borrowing it when you buy the lawn feed.

FUTURE PLANS

We are thinking about events to hold this summer and would welcome members' suggestions and comments. Would you be interested in a plant sale/swap event or a summer barbeque?

SHED UPDATE

The shed is now open every Sunday morning until the end of June from 10 - 12.

We have recently added to our stock a small quantity of peat-free compost at members'

suggestion. As an introductory offer we are selling 50 litre bags at £5 each.

Remember that we will deliver orders to those who don't feel safe or have difficulty coming to the shed.

Just email lynnwhittick@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/>

WHY WE SELL IT

Continuing our notes about products we sell in the shed:-

Moisture control gel:

These are small gel crystals which are added to compost and absorb large quantities of water, releasing it as plants need it. They are especially useful when added to compost in hanging baskets, pots and containers to reduce the amount of watering you need to do.

mycorrhizal fungi:

Mycorrhizas are beneficial fungi growing in association with plant roots, and exist by taking sugars from plants 'in exchange' for moisture and nutrients gathered from the soil by the fungal strands. They are added to plant roots when planting trees and shrubs to help establish them. They can be particularly beneficial in gardens of new houses or where soil has no nutrients.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

May is a busy month in the garden and allotment..

Continue sowing vegetable seeds outside - carrots, turnips, spring onions etc.

Thin out seedlings planted last month. Sweet corn, Runner & French Beans can now be sown outside but watch out for frosts. If in doubt, cover with fleece.

Towards the end of the month start planting out brassica plants, tomatoes and courgettes.

Earth up potatoes once shoots appear above ground.

Sow annual seeds thinly where you want them to flower.

Plant out dahlia tubers, but protect from late frosts.

Start planting up hanging baskets and containers and place in a sheltered area to harden off.

Fertilize spring bulbs once finished. Leave to die down naturally.

Once the lawn is growing vigorously, it is time to apply lawn feed but ensure it is well watered.

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

This season we are offering our hire equipment **free of charge** (except for petrol charge)

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

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 or our website where you can find our latest news and information?

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

<https://gnosallallotments.org.uk>

They contain information on current events, shed opening times, prices and useful safety information.

SEED ORDERS

We are planning to look at other possible seed suppliers for next year. Are you happy with the range and quality of seeds offered by D T Brown? Is there another supplier you prefer to use?

DISCOUNT OFFER FOR MEMBERS

Have you taken advantage of the discount offered at Swan Pit Nursery yet. GAGA members can get 10% discount on all purchases. Just show your membership card when you pay.

COMMITTEE NEWS

We still have vacancies on the committee and would welcome more garden members to join us. The committee normally meets once a month, usually for less than one hour (currently using Zoom), 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.

COMMITTEE

Simon Whittick .. 51 Chairman
Phone 01785 823466

Email simonwhittick@gmail.com

Lynn Whittick.... Secretary

Email lynnwhittick@live.co.uk

Ray Finney..... A

Email rayfinney@hotmail.co.uk

Phil Barnes..... 55

Bob Colman.... J Phone 01785 823955

Email bob.colman@btinternet.com

Ian Smith Q Treasurer

Sallyann Brannon 51

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.