



# Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 47

March 2023

## NEWS UPDATE

The committee is actively planning for the new season. We have delivered seed potatoes and seeds at a great discount price. The shed has opened for the season and we will now open every Sunday morning during the growing season. We are bursting at the seams with our stock of fertilizers, composts, canes, and other sundries.

## COMMITTEE

As we have several new committee members we will be featuring their profiles over the next few newsletters, starting with our new chairperson **Jane Smith**

Myself and my husband moved to Gnosall in 2002. From that time until recently I worked in the construction industry selling pipe and fittings in various different materials and for different applications.

Like a number of people I was furloughed during Covid which gave me the opportunity to get into gardening, with I am pleased to say, some success.

Although my furlough time was short it gave me time to re-evaluate my plans for the future. In March 2022 I took early retirement and since then have spent as much time as I can gardening and subsequently joined the GAGA committee in October.

## PEAT BASED COMPOST BAN

Gardeners should be aware that the composts that we have been using based on peat (such as the CLOVER brand we have been selling in the shed), will no longer be available next year. Gardeners will have to switch to "Peat-free" composts (or use a John Innes Soil based compost) in 2024.

We are stocking in the shed a peat-free compost branded "HAPPY VEG" which has

added feed to overcome the problems found in some peat free composts. Despite its name, it is also suitable for growing flowers. Our peat-based compost this year "GROWISE" has just 80% peat as a stepping stone to peat-free.

*We are planning an*

## **Open Day at the shed on Sunday March 25th**

*so that you can come and see what we offer members. There will be special offers, prizes and our hire equipment will be on show. While you are there you can share a coffee or tea with us. This will also be your last chance to spend your 2022 members' vouchers.*

## WHAT TO DO IN MARCH

Plant summer-flowering bulbs

Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials.

Prune bush and climbing roses

Cut back *Cornus* (dogwood) and *Salix* (willow) grown for colourful winter stems.

Mow the lawn on dry days if weather is mild

Prepare veg. plot for planting and dig in green manure.

Plant early crops such as Broad beans

Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes.

In greenhouse plant seeds of tomatoes, peppers and early brassicas.

Open the greenhouse or conservatory doors and vents on warm days.

Weeds come back into growth - deal with them before they get out of hand.

Protect new spring shoots from slugs.

## NEW LOGO

We would like to update our logo- how about sending us your suggestions or designs.

## MEMBERS' BENEFITS

Members can obtain a 10% discount at Swan Pit Nursery for all purchases over £10. Just show your membership card at the till.

A wide range of garden compost, fertilizers, canes and other garden sundries can be purchased at low prices from the shed. During the growing season the shed is opened on Sunday mornings.

We arrange purchase of seeds and seed potatoes and onion sets once a year in the autumn at significant discount. (This year the seed discount was 50%- and no charge for post & packing). Next Order- October for 2024.

Members get vouchers with their membership cards. These vouchers entitle members to money off when they make purchases at the shed. Once again this year members will receive 2 £1 vouchers.

Members can hire our equipment free of charge for use at home or on their allotment. (See details below).

## EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

*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.*

*Lawn Feed spreader.*

If you need more information about how and why you would use any of this equipment, talk to any 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>

<http://gnosallallotments.org.uk>

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

## WHAT DO MEMBERS WANT

We are looking for your suggestions:-  
Do you want:

Visits to gardens in the area

Talks by local speakers

Better access to products in the shed

Summer socials

Extra equipment for hire

More sundries and garden equipment at discount prices

Or anything else?

Please let us know either by talking to one of the committee or emailing to [GNOSALLALLOTMENTS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GNOSALLALLOTMENTS@GMAIL.COM)

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson	Jane Smith
Secretary	Liz Gardner
Treasurer	Ian Smith ..... Q
Vice Chair	Bob Colman..... J
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Shed stock control	Chris Broadbent & Bob Colman
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Other committee members	
Lynn Whittick....	Phone 01785 823466
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Phil Barnes.....	55
Craig Atkins .....	54A
Tony Pickford.....	N

Letter or numbers in Bold after a name indicate Allotment number.

We are sorry to advise you that Sally-Ann Brennon and Jennie Taupin have stepped down from the committee.

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.