



# Gnosall Allotments & Gardens Association Newsletter



Issue 49

July 2023

## NEWS UPDATE

It has been a busy time over the last few months, with many new members joining us and our membership now over 135.

At the end of May we held our second open day this year with a highly successful plant sale which raised roughly £150. Combining this with the proceeds from the competition to win the propagator, we were able to donate £180 to three charities – Gnosall Best Kept Village, Towpath restoration group and Dementia UK.

Committee and other members have been kept busy on Sunday mornings at the shed. Sales this year are at record levels including more than 150 bags of compost. Now that the growing season is well underway, activity is decreasing but we will continue to open the shed every second Sunday through July and August.

## SPRING BULBS TO ORDER

Another new benefit coming soon- we will shortly be offering a selection of spring bulbs for members to order at very low prices. You will receive order forms in the next week; pictures of the bulbs on offer can be seen at the shed and will be on our website- you can see them by using the link below;

<https://gnosallallotments.wordpress.com/spring-bulbs-to-order/>

We have recently become a society affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society.

This enables us to get professional help and find speakers from the RHS, as well as access to special rates on our insurance. Members can benefit as we can organise special group trips to any of the 5 RHS gardens, Bridgewater- near Salford, Harlow Carr – Harrogate, Hyde Hall in Essex, Wisley in Surrey and Rosemoor in Devon. (But maybe

some of them are a bit far away for us!). We also have a card giving two members at a time half price access to the gardens. There will also be a copy of the RHS monthly magazine “The Garden” available to read/borrow in the shed. This has many useful articles about techniques, plants and gardens as well as recent garden news.

Finally you will see our new logo at the top of this newsletter.

## COMMITTEE

We are sorry to say goodbye to Lynn Whittick, who is standing down from the committee after many years serving as secretary and Chairperson.

Hopefully we can find some of our newer members to join the committee when we hold our AGM in the Autumn. If you want to find out what this entails, just ask any of the current committee.

This month we feature a profile of another of this year's new committee member

Craig Atkins:

We stumbled on Gnosall during our quest to find a home closer to work, sick of the 80 mile round trip from the Midlands each day! Within 2 short months of finding our spot in this great village, we moved, strangers in a new world! The following weekend on our first visit to The Boat I was greeted by the bar maid “Hello Craig how are you?”... you know those awkward moments when you have no idea who someone is but they know you??! Err “Hi I’m well thanks you?” Turns out it was the daughter of a family I lived opposite as a child, my mum and dad still did and my sister had just moved next door! It’s a small world, two Willenhall wonderers making Gnosall their home what are the chances? Well from that point on work took over as

we made sure the mortgage was paid so we could stay here! Redundancies ensued our relocation seemed ill judged at times, but Black Country grit & perseverance stood us well. My philosophy in life is that everything happens for a reason, it may take years to get where you want to be (it certainly did for us) but the hard times make you stronger, in the end thankfully with good judgement and a spot of luck I found a job where finally a work life balance could be struck, or so I thought?!!?

Lockdown came not long into my new tenure, working for an online garden supply company, you can imagine... A shop that never shuts + everyone and their mother taking up gardening, desperate to keep themselves occupied during self-isolation - BOOM!!!!

With just 3 staff working from our kitchen tables day and night we met these new challenges head on, knowing that we were helping to make a difference to people's health and wellbeing through those worrying times!

During this time my neighbour messaged to say did I know the village had allotments, that she'd just found on a walk?. Knowing my love of gardening and the fact I'd run out of space I was curious & had no idea they existed! 18 months on the wait list and several more lockdowns later I got my plot, 54A. Overgrown yes, full of potential even more so! After clearing most of it during the heat of last summer and a 2 week holiday, returning home I thought I was defeated, my cleared plot was green over again. NOOOOO Disheartened and coming to the end of the season I put it to the back of my mind, we'll have another go next year. Answering the call to arms attending the GAGA AGM, I was impressed by the turnout and passion of the members present. As my working life had now calmed down I was finally in a place where I could give some time back and volunteer down the Shed etc. Joining the committee has allowed me to meet lots of new people and make friendships I never thought I would, and after almost 7 years in the village I feel part of the community

instead of an outsider. No longer is it just the barmaid who knows me! Every journey begins with a single step they say... Our started with a wrong turn, yellow house builders sign and the rest is history.

### WHAT TO DO IN JULY

Remove flowers as they fade to encourage more to appear.

Lift onions when the tops begin to fall over naturally.

Feed roses again to help them have a second flush of flowers.

Cut out fruited canes on summer raspberries.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson	Jane Smith
Secretary	Liz Gardner
Treasurer	Ian Smith ..... Q
Vice Chair	Bob Colman..... J
Phone	01785 823955

Email bob.colman@btinternet.com

Shed stock control Bob Colman

Shed rota Carol Roberts

Other committee members

Phil Barnes.....55

Craig Atkins ..... 54A

Tony Pickford.....N

Chris Broadbent

### EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

As well as items listed below we now have a Long-arm Hedge clipper to borrow

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.

Long arm hedge clipper

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

### APPEAL TO MEMBERS

We are looking for more members to help in the shed.

Can you help on a Sunday morning from 10 till 12?

If so, please contact Carol.