



Gnosall Allotments and Gardens Association Newsletter



Issue 50

August/September 2023

NEWS UPDATE

As we reach the end of the growing season and our financial year, we can report good results both with the increasing membership and the service we have given to members with record sales in the shed. Our newly introduced Spring Bulb sale has been successful, and members will already have collected or received many of the bulbs they ordered. The remaining tulips and Hyacinths are on the way and may well have been delivered before you receive this newsletter.

Discussions continue to be held with the Parish Council about several issues including repairing the flooded road by the allotment entrance and clearance of overhanging trees on the way to the allotment car park.

We are aware that some allotment holders have lost crops from their sites and we are investigating the best way to address this problem. Members can help by keeping a watch out for people wandering around the site and reporting any suspicious activities.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR TALK AND AGM ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 19TH

The Annual general meeting is fast approaching, please accept this as a formal notice of the AGM which will be held on October 19th at the Royal Oak. The meeting will start with an illustrated presentation about the Royal Horticultural Society gardens and the benefits we, as a society, and individual members get from being Affiliate Members of the RHS. There will then be snacks available and a short AGM to review the past year and elect the committee for the next year.

AGM & Illustrated Talk about RHS Gardens- with light refreshments

Thursday October 19th at 7.30pm

Royal Oak Upstairs Room

We are currently short of committee members and need volunteers to come forward and help run GAGA. Volunteers do not have to take on any particular role if they don't want to, but is essential we have as many volunteers as we can, so that we can continue to offer benefits to members and have new ideas. Do not just sit back and hope that others will do it.

This meeting is also the opportunity to have any issues discussed or questions answered. If you want an issue raised, please send it to our secretary Liz Gardner by emailing to segardner2110@hotmail.co.uk

before the meeting so that we have time to prepare an answer.

We want to hear your views, so come along and tell us what you would like us to do next year. Do you want visits to gardens, illustrated talks or....what else?

COMMITTEE

This month our profile features

Carol Roberts

who is responsible for managing the shed rota.

I moved back into the village in 2008 after 20 years away living in Stafford, being Gnosall born and bred. I was a steward in the Merchant Navy for approximately ten years and having left in 2017 I was permanently around to help my parents. My father 'Ken Walker' got me to help him with his vegetable patch and the following season he let me have a third of it to grow

what I liked. Growing my own vegetables is one of the most fascinating and exciting things I have done, however it can be challenging at times. How you can produce such wonderful tasting produce from a tiny little seed is amazing. It is very time consuming, but the rewards are remarkable, in particular, my first cauliflower was the best ever. The thing with gardening is that you are always planning ahead, looking forward and trying to improve on the season before, which is not easy when the weather is so unpredictable!! Everything seems to have a good year. I nearly gave up on some varieties but as my dad says you have to take the rough with the smooth and persevere without getting too down hearted. As the years have moved on, I am now looking after the whole vegetable patch as dad is nearly 95! I am still learning from my greatest mentor and other gardeners alike where there is always something new to learn from such a fascinating vocation, as I am sure you all appreciate. Whilst doing my stint at the allotment shed on a Sunday morning you get the best tips from all our fellow gardeners which is a bonus as you can never stop learning. As my confidence and knowledge with setting out the vegetable garden grows, I am constantly looking to try other varieties, and no doubt, I will be picking everyone's brains further more!!

HARVEST FESTIVAL DECORATIONS

GAGA has offered to help with Harvest Festival decorations for St Lawrence Church on the weekend of September 23/24th. Please help us either with surplus produce and flowers or, if you are a flower arranger, with decorating the church window on the Saturday morning.

WHAT TO DO IN SEPTEMBER

Divide herbaceous perennials

Dividing perennials regularly will ensure healthy, vigorous plants that will continue to perform year after year. It also offers the opportunity to multiply your plants.

Pick autumn raspberries

Harvest regularly, to get fruits at the peak of ripeness, when richly coloured, plump and

easy to pull off. Pick on a dry day, so the berries aren't wet.

Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals

Growing plants from seed is generally straightforward and inexpensive. It is an opportunity to increase the number of plants in your garden for free.

Dig up remaining Potatoes

And store in cool dark frost free place.

Net Ponds before leaves start to fall

Reduce the frequency of houseplant watering

Plant Daffodils and small spring bulbs

But delay planting tulips till later.

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

We have a range of equipment for home gardeners and allotment holders to borrow free of charge (you just have to pay for fuel where applicable)

We have recently been given a small hand mower to add to the list of equipment on loan.

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 when it re-opens next season.

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

If so, please contact Carol.