

# **Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association**

## **Newsletter – Spring 2021**

At last, Spring is in the air, Covid vaccinations are going well and the horrible bug appears to be in retreat. Fingers crossed for a better year than 2020.

Our site conditions are generally excellent. The grass roadways are in good condition despite the wet winter and the new parking area at the South End is holding up well despite considerable use. This area has proved to be very useful but there have been a few issues with inconsiderate parking so please don't take up more space than necessary. We've recently purchased a 'wacker' plate to help us maintain the parking areas and our private roadway. This has already been put to good use by the volunteer maintenance team who have filled in the potholes that appeared during the recent wet weather. The team have also carried out repairs to the fence by the North End entrance.

Many thanks go to; Simon, Wayne, Christian, Graham, and all our volunteers who provide us with invaluable support throughout the year.

The majority of plots now show signs of recent activity as we start to prepare the ground and remove the last of the over-wintering vegetables and persistent weeds. This is an exciting time of year as we all anticipate the new growing season and look forward to warmer weather. The site is at full occupancy with a healthy waiting list. There is much increased interest in allotment gardening nationally – some no doubt due to the desire to use Covid lockdown time in a useful and healthy way. We hope that this interest will be sustained as other opportunities for exercise, leisure activities and work are re-established when lockdown comes to an end. In the meantime, we would encourage any tenants who wish to downsize and reduce their plot holding, to contact our Secretary John Currell who will reallocate plots to those on the waiting list.

Due to Covid restrictions our Shareholders AGM was held by ZOOM on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. Reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were circulated beforehand to all who had signed up to the Zoom meeting. Three tenants had accepted the invitation from the Committee to take up shares in the Association. Currently 44 of our 93 tenants are shareholders of the Association. Tenants are eligible to become shareholders after 5 years tenancy and given an adequate continued level of plot maintenance.

The Committee and officials were re-elected en bloc, with the exception of Mary Tanner who after many years of service has given up her plot due to poor health. During the meeting Wayne Griffiths volunteered to join the Committee and was duly elected.

Your Committee for 2021 comprises Bob Bulpett (Chairman), John Currell (Secretary), Neville Morton (Treasurer), Sharon Peters, Francis Biggerstaff, Peter Lockett, Alison Woods, Margaret Winstanley and Wayne Griffiths. Matthew Wren has agreed to take over management of the website from Rebecca Miller who set up and managed the site for several years. Many thanks Rebecca for all your efforts. Matthew will attend Committee meetings as and when required.

The practical and very essential management of our site is conducted by our Secretary John Currell. If you have any queries regarding tenancies or require permission to erect sheds or greenhouses please contact John.

Most of us are able to manage our plots in a fairly tidy and considerate manner, but on occasion we have to remind plotholders that they are responsible for mowing and maintaining the grass paths around individual plots so that they are safe and level. Weeds should not be allowed to seed and blow onto adjoining plots and bonfires should only be lit at dusk and when the wind is blowing away from neighbouring houses.

We rely heavily on our volunteers to carry out essential maintenance to shared equipment, paths, roadways, fences etc. If you need advice or help, or if you feel that anything requires attention, please look out for Alison Woods, Robin Beattie, Wayne Griffiths or Francis Biggerstaff. They are frequently on site on and provide us with much needed support. We plan to restock the communal muck heaps when weather permits and supplies become available. The charge for muck remains at £1.20 per barrow load.

As in previous years Keith Waterman has circulated a new rota for the volunteer mowing team who look after the central grass roadway, the parking areas at the South end of the site and the area around the garage. In recent years the mowing teams have enjoyed a break from this task due to the very welcome assistance of Christian Hodges with his big mower. Thanks Christian!

Please take the time to look at our website ([wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com](http://wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com)), set up by Rebecca Miller. We anticipate that this site will move to a new platform later in the year when Matthew Wren has set it up. The website is a mine of useful information with practical guidance from John Marshall, details and instructions for use of shared equipment and links to other gardening websites.

We also post details of meetings and forthcoming events on the notice boards by the gates and on the central garage.

You should have recently received an email advising that the 'Grow to Give' initiative, which was well supported last year, will soon be back in operation, starting around Easter time. The collection point for your donations will be located by the garage as for last year.

We hope that the 'Social Saturday' coffee mornings will be permitted this year and a schedule of dates will be circulated as soon as the relaxation of Covid regulations permits. Additionally, we very much hope that our delayed celebrations to mark the Centenary of the formation of the Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association will be on the agenda for 2021.

Enjoy your gardening.

Bob Bulpett, Chairman WAAA

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