

Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association

Newsletter – Spring/Easter 2023

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the start of our growing season and hopefully some warmer weather. It would also be nice if the rain could stop for a little while so I can get the ground ready for planting seed potatoes. I know we need rain but perhaps there can be too much of a good thing.

Our 2022 AGM, which was delayed until the 13th January 2023, was held in St Annes Hall. There were twenty-three attendees and one apology. No new shareholders were appointed but the Committee will be considering new applications during the year.

There were several changes to the committee, with the resignation of Sharon Peters and long-serving Neville Morton and the subsequent appointment of Robert Dalby as our new treasurer and Christian Hodges who will help with site management. The new committee comprises: Bob Bulpett (Chairman), Jenny Summerfield (Secretary), Robert Dalby (Treasurer), Peter Lockett, Wayne Griffiths, Alison Woods, Margaret Winstanley and Christian Hodges. Additionally, Matthew Wren will attend committee meetings as Website Administrator.

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE MATTERS

We have revised management responsibilities and Wayne Griffiths is now Site Manager, looking after the allocation of plots to new tenants and issues such as the condition of the site and plot inspections. He is assisted in this by all committee members and other volunteers.

We were finally able to source supplies of manure and the first deliveries are now nearly exhausted. A new order has been placed and it is expected that a fresh delivery will be made on Thursday 6th April. It is important that access is clear for the tractor and trailer. Neither the manure supplier or WAAA will be responsible for damage to sheds or other structures that have been positioned close to the central grass track. Manure cost remains at £1.20 per barrow load. Please record the number of loads taken in the book located in the shed behind the garage.

Unlike many allotments, we do allow sheds and greenhouses. It is a requirement of your tenancy agreement that you have permission in writing from the secretary before you start construction. Advice on acceptable sizes and location can be obtained from Wayne or Christian.

We also currently permit bonfires on our site. This is on the condition that fires are only lit when the wind is blowing away from the houses adjoining our site and at the end of the day, preferably at sunset. Definitely not on a sunny afternoon when our neighbours are likely to be enjoying their gardens. You are not permitted to bring rubbish from home to burn on our site.

GRASS CUTTING

Keith Waterman has circulated a new rota for the volunteer mowing team who help to look after the central grass roadway, the parking areas at each end of the site and the area around the garage. Whilst Christian Hodges has helped us enormously by mowing the central grass track in recent years, the mowing team is responsible for strimming the track edges and maintaining other difficult to reach areas.

Plot-holders are responsible for mowing the paths around their plots and may use the communal mowers in exchange for a small donation to cover the cost of petrol.

WEBSITE and NOTICEBOARDS

Matthew Wren looks after our website, <https://ashbrookallotments.com/> where you will find useful links and more, including details of upcoming events, items for sale and handy hints.

Contributions, comments and notices are also welcome on our facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ashbrookallotments>

Details of meetings and forthcoming events are also posted on the notice boards by the gates and on the central garage.

SOCIAL SATURDAYS

Derek Patton has again kindly agreed to organise our well attended Social Saturday mornings. These provide an opportunity to meet up by the garage for a chat, a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. It is also a chance to join in with our plant swap so bring along your spare plants and seeds. Social Saturdays are held on the third Saturday of each month as follows; Saturday 15th April, 20th May, 18th June, 16th July, 20th August and Rent Day on the 24th Sept. Volunteers would be most welcome to assist and provide cakes.

GROW TO GIVE

Details to be added

Happy gardening for 2023

Bob Bulpett – Chairman WAAA