

Nottingham Allotment newsletter number two

This newsletter is a new addition to the Allotment website. It is in fact a reduced version of the Good Life (the Allotment magazine).

Editor's comments

A very happy New Year to you all. Let's hope this grow season will be as productive as last year. This year has been very wet and windy so far.

The last event of last year was Bonfire night, held in November at the allotment. This went down a treat and fairly well attended.

Sue James has run a few stalls where homemade Christmas decorations and wreaths were sold, with the proceeds being given back to the allotment and charity. The allotment had a mention in the Derby Telegraph thanks to Sue efforts with the decorations.

AGMs for both the allotment management committee and the Show and Event's committee will be held at Chaddesden Social Club in 27th February. All are welcome.

The year's allotment shop list is provided. Only a few prices are printed, because these may change from time to time. However, all prices will be displayed in the shop.

Adrian provides an article with a few site notices and the Derby Allotment Forum.

Let's hope the weather allows us to start some winter digging.

Bonfire night 11th November

A very success day and the weather was fine for that time of year. Also there was good turn out over the day. The event included food and drink, a raffle, fireworks and braziers to keep everyone warm.



A few photographs from Bonfire Night

The S&E committee wish to thank all the people who volunteered their own time for Bonfire night.

Christmas Sale

Handmade Christmas decorations and wreaths were sold at a variety of locations. All were made by Sue, helped by Karen, Winnie and Walter. Sue has appeared next to Karen in the Derby Telegraph (12th December, page 12) selling wreaths outside the Chaddesden shops. Sue was helped by Karen, Winnie, Walter, Jack and Brian with the stalls.



An example of one of the handmade table decorations and Christmas wreaths.

The venues and dates at which the decorations were sold were:

Venue	Date
<i>Xmas Market at Spondon Village Hall Spondon</i>	23 rd Dec
<i>St Albans Church St Albans Road, Chaddesden</i>	30 th Dec
<i>Chaddesden Shopping Centre, Nottingham Road</i>	7 th & 14 th Dec

Site Notices:-

Mains water will be turn off until spring when the risk of freezing has past. An exact date cannot be given because this is weather dependent.

Some site news from Adrian

1. Annual General Meeting

The site's annual general meeting will be held on 27th February 2014. This meeting gives all plot holders and co-workers the opportunity to have their input into the running of the site. All current Committee Members stand down at this meeting and a new committee is appointed by those present. The meeting is to be held at the Chaddesden Park Social Club (opposite the fire station on Nottingham Road) from 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend but would like to nominate someone for the committee, nomination forms will be available in the shop each Sunday.

2. Good News.

The December Management Committee meeting agreed with the Treasure's proposal to reduce the rents for 2014. The new rent level will be 13.5pence per square yard. Although the rent to the Council has increased prudent management and support from the use of the shop has helped to reduce the rent level. In addition the Derby City Council's rent rebate scheme will be in operation for those plot holders who qualify.

3. Bad News

The National Allotment and Leisure Gardener's annual Subscription has increased for 2014: it now stands at £2.25. The subscription and rents are due from the 1st January: please be prompt with your payments.

4. Even Better News

It was agreed at the last Committee Meeting that the Mikron Theatre Group should return with their new production. The event is to be held on the evening of Friday 13th June 2014 starting at 7.30pm. This will be a "Bring your own booze and seat" event for which we plan to have the BBQ fired up. This is an open event for which anyone can turn up. Please let your friends and neighbours know.

5. Derby Allotment Forum

This is where all Derby City Council's allotment group are invited to meet, twice a year, where ideas can be swapped and have information provided, to us, from our landlords. Our last meeting was in October where the following were covered.

- 1) Guy Freeman from the British Red Cross gave an overview of all the services that the Red Cross provide, and in particular the role of the Refugee Support Service in Derby. He then went on to explain how the Food Networking Forum in Derby had evolved, and how all the food banks in Derby

are involved in providing support to all types of vulnerable people. Donations of surplus produce can be made: please contact Adrian Maynard; Honorary Secretary via the shop.

2) We also took part in discussing:

- What's great about our allotment site;
- What do the DCC Parks team do well;
- How can DCC Parks team improve the service currently given;
- How do we use co-workers and what do our rules say about them; and
- How do we handle termination of tenancies and the rules which we apply?

The next meeting is to be held around April / May 2014.