

Nottingham Allotment newsletter number three

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

Welcome to the spring edition of the Good Life. This year has had a wild and wet start preventing some early work on the plots. We shouldn't have any water shortages this year.

This year's events have been agreed on by the Show and Event committee and the provisional dates are given in the Good Life (except the dates for the carnival and Oakwood Gala are set). A new even for this year is to have a stall at the Oakwood carnival. Don't forget to support the allotment stalls at the Big One (Chaddesden carnival) this year on 1st June.

Remember to keep your tools secure and safe, especially after the break-ins in the allotment in Allenton allotments, as seen on the local news.

Please don't forget supporting the allotment by purchasing at the site shop.

Hope you all have a good productive year on your plot.

Recent sighting of birds of prey

Have you noticed the buzzards flying over the allotments? Brian pointed this out the other day. They are nesting close to the allotments. If you want to read more about buzzards in Derbyshire go to <http://www.peakdistrictonline.co.uk/peak-district-birds-of-prey-the-buzzard>

Possible future events for 2014 (provisional dates):

1. The Big One Chaddesden Carnival on Sunday 1st June

Allotment will have 3 stalls (plants sale, tombola, homemade jams and cakes and allotment information).

2. Mikron performance on Friday 13th June.

Performance will be held on upper car park at about 7pm.

3. Oakwood Gala 13th July on Oakwood Park.

4. Open Day – Sunday 17th August

A special day when the allotment is open to the public. The aim is to promote allotments by letting people to see what we do and grow. Food and drinks will be available.

5. Vegetable Competition – Sunday 21st September

A chance of plot holders to show off they produce. There is a small charge to enter the competition. A list of the competition vegetables will be posted near the time. The main competition is for the biggest onion and for the children the tallest Sun Flower. Food and drinks will be available.

6. Bonfire night – to be decided.

Site Notices:-

I would like to put in a plea for smallish jam jars so that I can use them for my marmalade making. So if anyone has any 8oz (half pound) jam jars - or similar small sizes - would they leave them outside the sheds on plots 1715 (near the meeting room) or 1691 please. Thank you, Lin Reeve.'

Tombola for the carnival

If you have any prizes that could be donated to the allotment carnival tombola please leave at the shop.

First signs of spring?



Photo taken by Jenny

Frog spawn in allotment pond. At least the frogs had some faith in coming weather. Where has it gone?

Photos of the allotment after the storms



Photos taken by Jenny

Photos show some of the damage done by the storms after Christmas, worst of which was on the upper allotment. Let's hope this is not repeated again this year.

Break-ins.

Derby City Council has informed us of that between 12 midnight and 6.30am on Sunday 23rd March one of our Allotment groups suffered a break in to their site shop, store and 12 sheds.

The offenders gained access to the property via a hole that they made in the perimeter hedge.

Please note and encourage plot-holders to keep valuable items off site rather than store in sheds etc.

In addition would all plot holders check that their plot boundary is sound: if not please inform a member of the Committee (list on last page of this edition and on the central Notice Board).

Annual General Meeting (main committee).

The Association's AGM was held on 27th February 2014. The meeting business was completed in very quick time. The main business was confirming the appointment of a new committee. For your information each year the committee and officers are all dismissed and new people appointed to the committee. Next year the newly appointed committee will be dismissed and a new one appointed. It is important that all plot holders attend (as long as the rent has been paid) to ensure that all views are collected and considered. However if you have an issue or suggestion please let any member of the committee (or email the Honorary Secretary) know so that they can be considered at the most appropriate time.

Minutes of the AGM can be found on the Allotment's Website.

Rents

All rents have now been collected with the exception of one plot. The Associations rules confirm that any rent not paid by 31st

March will be considered as a resignation and the plot will be let to the next person on the waiting list (There are currently 22 names on the waiting list).

NSALG (National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Ltd)

<http://www.nsalg.org.uk/>

There are some differences being aired at the NSALG which would appear to be over a clash of personalities. Heated emails have been circulated and a meeting request turned down (to discuss the issues). However the 100 member requests for a meeting are more than well on the way and a few more requests will reach the required total. This meeting will allow a discussion of the matters.

Go to the web site and read the message from a former Committee Member!

Alex Mullins Southern Regional Representative and NSALG Committee Member is leading the discussion and rising his concern of the running of the NSALG. This in turn has resulted in comments and the seeking of legal advice about the allegations made.

NSALG Retail benefits for members

We hope you have all had the opportunity to take a look at the fantastic offers in the new 2014 edition of the Members' voucher booklet; for those of you who haven't had chance to look on the website - here is the link. [NAS Member voucher booklet](#)

The voucher codes within the booklet give members entitlement to discounts with some of the UK's leading horticultural and leisure suppliers, including RHINO Greenhouses, Waltons, Kings Seeds, Compost Direct, Carbon Gold, Euro-bulbs, Avanti Holidays and many more. You can also visit the Members area of the web-site and follow the links on the left hand side to access the voucher booklet. If you don't have a login and password for the Members area please call 01536 266576 and you will be supplied with them.

SHOW and EVENTS AGM

Show and Events AGM was held at the Chaddesden Park Road Social Club on 13th February. This was a fairly short AGM in which a new committee was elected, decision made on how much money to share between the chosen charity and for the allotment association. The chosen charity for 2013 was the Visually Impaired Crickets Club. The committee decided to continue

supporting this charity in 2014. Also the committee chose the events to support in 2014 (see below). This list does not include the Christmas decorations and wreaths sales in November / December period.