

## **ST JOHN'S ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION 1983**

### **Health and Safety Report for 2021 AGM**

The committee does its best to ensure that the allotments are safe for tenants, families and visitors. Please note:

- It is the tenants' responsibility to work and act safely when on the site.
- Please take care of yourself, your friends and neighbours. Over the years at least two lives were saved when tenants checked up on their neighbours and discovered they needed hospitalisation.
- Take a mobile phone with you when you go to your allotment, and let someone know where you are.
- There is no first aid box on the site.
- Make sure you have tetanus immunisation.
- Don't approach suspicious looking strangers/intruders when you are alone.
- Be aware that there is asbestos on site. Let any committee member know if you find any. Do not disturb it. Leave it where it is.
- Do not keep anything valuable on site, or secure it thoroughly. We have been targeted by professional thieves.

#### **Covid 19**

We took the advice of the National Allotment Society and have operated the site in accordance with their guidelines. The gate is now left open and lids off the water tanks to avoid the spread of infection. This has some disadvantages, but the advantages are far more significant. The shop is categorised as a garden centre and is operating in accordance with government guidelines. The situation is kept under constant review.

#### **Incidents**

In 2019 a car with brake failure was driven on to the allotment site, crashing through the gate and ending up in the hedge at the end of the drive. The driver suffered only minor injuries. We were fortunate that no-one else was hurt. On analysis we decided that this was a freak accident which could not have been foreseen. On the Notice Board there is now the 'What Three Words' code, so that if you ever need to call the emergency services to the site you can quickly give them our location.

There have been incidents of theft and vandalism over the last two years and, like other allotment sites, we are on the radar of professional thieves. Please thoroughly secure your valuable items, or better still, keep them off site. These people obviously come on site to do a 'recce', but only challenge strangers if it is safe to do so.

In late 2020 a trespasser came on site and tripped and fell over a broken manhole cover. We were not aware of the breakage, which has now been repaired. We were made aware of the incident, but have heard nothing further from the trespasser. Our insurers have been informed.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Has been revised. The location code was identified as a risk which has been addressed.

#### **Not Driving up the cartroads in winter**

Thanks to everyone for observing the rules.

#### **Gypsy Lane**

Please observe the 5mph speed limit.

If you have any concerns about health and/or safety please let me, or any committee member know.

Nick Sumners  
Health and Safety Officer  
February 2021