

# St John's Allotment Association.

## Spring 2022 Newsletter



Spring is here and we have the Easter weekend ahead. Dry weather is forecast so a good time to cultivate your allotment.

### **Plot Inspections**

Are on Sunday 24 April and Sunday 26 June. Lay members and committee take a walk round the allotments to ensure that all is well. On the April inspection we expect to see that the ground is mostly prepared and that planting has begun. In June we expect to see that the ground is all prepared and that the allotment is mostly planted out. We also expect to see that weeds are under control and that there is no rubbish and clutter around. If you would like to be a plot inspector, please let Arthur know.

We have a waiting list of 20 would-be gardeners, so if your plot is getting too much consider going down to half a plot. Less work and a new neighbour.

### **AGM**

We had over 30 members turn up for our first live AGM since 2019. There were some useful discussions. The minutes are attached.

One of the main items was that the managerial burden of the Association falls too heavily on the shoulders of Arthur and Ruth and help is needed. There is a real need for someone to look after the site. The job can easily be shared among several people. The list of jobs is given in Bob's Chairman's Report sent out with the AGM papers. Please have a look and see if there is something you can do. It is not good practice to be reliant on just a few people, especially when the years are starting to take their toll. Now is the time to hand over the reins to the next generation, when the transition can be seamless. This is not a problem which is going to go away.

It was decided that from now on we will keep the gate closed. Nick is going to replace the gatepost and put up a new 'No Entry' sign, which hopefully will keep out those going for an evening stroll.

We also have some volunteers who are going to set up a Facebook page for us which should be a new way of communicating with everyone and encourage members to participate more fully in the Association. We will keep you informed as to progress.

### **Shop**

We have found another supplier for the shop, so things are not looking as bleak as they did earlier in the year. We have lots in stock, including seeds and tools. Come and have a look on a Sunday morning.

### **Skips**

Two skips will be hired for the Easter weekend, one on track 2 and another on track 4.

It was evident from the AGM that many members are not happy with our hiring skips. They cost £210 each, and they would not be necessary if members did as they should and take their rubbish away from the site. We cannot relet plots where members have left a lot of stuff behind when they leave.

Please take a good look round your plot and have a clear up. The skips are only for stuff too unwieldy to take home or to the tip. No combustible stuff may be put on the skips. Either compost it or take it home to your green bin. We will be on the lookout for rubbish on the plot inspections, so if you don't want us to remind you about it, take it away now. And we know that it is mostly kept at the back of plots. We will be walking down the paths to take a look.

### **Food Bank**

We will continue to support the local food bank again this year. An old bread tray will be put on the trolley outside the old shed on Thursday evenings for your donations. I will take them to the food bank between 9 and 9.30 on Friday mornings. I hope to take them some rhubarb this week.

### **Annual Flower Show**

We can no longer hold this at the Sports and Social Club, so are looking for a new venue. Any ideas, please tell Toni Hickman.

Enjoy your gardening.