

St John's Allotment Association

Summer 2023 Newsletter



I am sorry to have to tell you some bad news. Arthur has resigned as plot secretary. This is a real loss. I know you will all agree that Arthur has done a fantastic job and has been a key player in the management team for many years. Many many thanks Arthur for all your hard work. You are a star! This will be a tough act to follow, but the committee is determined to continue to make your Association successful.

The committee is considering our next step, but meantime if you have any queries about your plot which you would normally refer to Arthur, please see Bob Shanks instead, or failing him any committee member. These are:

Bob Shanks - Plot 104	Chris Jordan - Plot 37	Bob Thomas - Plot 84A
Terry Cripps - Plot 146	Toni Hickman - Plot 109	Peter Spencer - Plot 85
Jurgita Liutkeviciute - Plot 8	Ken Chennells - Plot 13	Ruth Harris - Plot 60
Dan Thomas - Plot 84A		

Volunteer Meeting

Many apologies for the delay in arranging the second meeting. We have not been idle, and some of the posts have been filled and the work either handed over or in the process of handover. We now have a Bookkeeper, Shed Purchasing Officer, General Secretary, Site Manager, Health and Safety Officer and Working Party Organiser. We are beginning to diversify so that our reliance on a couple of individuals is not as great as it once was. This is real progress.

We are holding a second meeting of volunteers at the Sports and Social Club on **Thursday 31 August at 7.30 pm**. We would like as many members as possible to attend, so please come along if you can. Obviously top of the Agenda will be the appointment of a new Plot Secretary. We will also discuss the possibility of splitting the role so that it is less onerous. We are only just beginning to realise just how much Arthur did, and how much time he gave to the Association.

Football Club

The club has made a couple of very reasonable requests:

- That we do not park our cars in their car parks in Gypsy Lane
- That we do not regard their toilets a public convenience. If you need the toilet, please buy a cup of tea or similar.

We are trying to get some dates from them for home matches and similar events when Gypsy Lane will be full of parked cars. Some tenants, me in particular, prefer to keep away rather than face reversing back down the lane through two lines of parked cars.

For those who don't know, the food at the club is first rate, inexpensive and is now available in the afternoon.

Coffee Mornings

On the first Sunday of the month, 6 August and 3 September, coffee and cake is being served outside the shed, kindly donated by Tobias, Sara and Dan. The lemon drizzle cake is something else! At the same time we do odd jobs round the site, such as filling in holes in the driveway and laying black plastic on vacant plots. Those who have attended previously say that it is really enjoyable and chance to stop work and have a chat with neighbours. You are welcome to come along.

Website

Keep up to date with our news on our website stjohnsallotments.co.uk

Kings Seeds

As many of you will know you can buy seeds at 40% less than shop prices from one of the country's leading seed merchants. This is one of the benefits of the Association's membership of the National Allotment Society. You can buy online at any time, but you first need to contact Ruth on ruth.nigel1@hotmail.co.uk in order to gain access to the website. We will still operate the paper order system as we have done for many years. The paper catalogue will be available shortly, it might be available at the August coffee morning. We will let you know the dates for order submission.

Plots and Waiting Lists

We still have 19 people on the waiting list. There is just one half plot available, which we hope to let shortly.

Gate

Thank you all for your co-operation in keeping the gate closed. This is important as it keeps trespassers out and stops us being used as an overflow car park for the Football Club.

Allotment Show

This is on Saturday 2 September at the Methodist Church in Priory Road. It is a lovely venue, and the event is the highlight of our year. The competition is not too serious, but even if you do not want to enter anything in the Show, please come along and see what your neighbours have managed to grow, have a chat, a cup of tea and a slice of cake. After the event a lot of the exhibits are sold off for the benefit of the Association by own ace auctioneer Terry Cripps. This is great entertainment! The Show Schedule has been mailed to all tenants and is also available on our website. If you have any queries, please ask Toni Hickman, Karen Knight and/or Linda Martin.

Ground Cover – Mypex and Black Polythene

If we lent you some of this and it is no longer needed, will you please return it to the shed on Sunday mornings, as we can use it elsewhere.

Shed

Will close on 3 September and then only open once a month until the end of the year. If you need anything at other times, either Ruth or Ken will open up for you.

Ruth Harris
15 July 2023