

Walmley Ash Allotment Association Newsletter

V4

NCS VOLUNTEER DAY



On the 2nd, 4th & 10th of August we hosted a group of teenage volunteers from the NCS (The Challenge).

On the 2nd and 4th they met with members of the Committee to discuss what they could do for us. They had a walk around the site and had a chat with some of the ploholders. It was decided that they would set to on clearing some of the overgrown areas for us, plot 27a being one of them.

On the 10th August despite the very unpredictable weather the NCS teenagers were still determined to get stuck in.

They arrived on site at around 11:30. After a quick rundown on what was planned they equipped themselves with gardening tools that they had purchased en-route. Everyone was allocated an area to concentrate on and all 12 willing hands got to work.

By lunchtime, after numerous jumbo bag wheelbarrow runs by Stan and Graham to the

Spinney, the plot and the area around the hut were knocked into shape.

After lunch all hands set to for a final push on plot 27a.

During the day we had sun, rain and wind sometimes all at the same time but overall, fortunately, it was mainly dry.

Thanks to the hard work of the NCS teenagers we can now see the ground on plot 27a. The driveway and area around the site hut has also been cutback and cleared of overgrown vegetation and weeds and now looks cared for.

We are very pleased with what has been achieved.

So a BIG Thank You to NCS and also to Graham and Stan who removed numerous jumbo bags of vegetation.

Thank you to everyone else that turned up to lend a hand and the odd wheelbarrow and rake.



It was a very successful and satisfying day.

More pictures of the event are available on our website <https://walmleyashallotment.co.uk>

More information on the scheme can be found at <https://www.ncsyes.co.uk/what-is-ncs>

COMPETITION RESULTS

Considering it was our first time in over 30 years we did remarkably well.

We entered four competitions with results as follows:

The Most Improved Site - Robins Trophy – 1st place

The Best Managed Site in Birmingham - Frank Carter Trophy – joint 5th place.

The Best Plot in Birmingham - Cliff Jones Trophy – 16th & 18th place.

The Best newcomer - Flo Pickering Trophy – 10th and 20th place.

There are approx. 116 other allotments so we fared pretty well.

We have asked for some feedback so that we can have another go next year.

You can find more details on the BDAC website. <http://www.bdacallotments.co.uk>

Your cooperation in taking part was appreciated.

HIDDEN CAMERAS

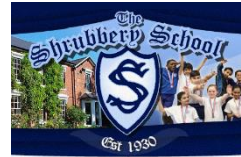
Due to a spate of pilfering and trespass on various plots it has been agreed to install hidden cameras. Notice of this was sent out via email and posted on the site noticeboards. Signs have also been placed on all entrance gates.

HEALTH & SAFETY

With all the unpredictable weather please ensure you are following the WAAA safety guidelines. There is more risk of slips when the ground is wet.

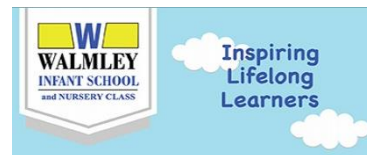
SCHOOL VISITS

The Shrubbery School visited site on the 10th July 2019 between 2pm and 3:30pm.



They had a walk around and chatted to a few ploholders about what they are growing.

Walmley infant school visited the site again on 16th July 2019, altogether 90 pupils, in batches of 30, were on site between 9.30am - 11.30am.



Elaine organizes tasks for the pupils which they carry out with great

enthusiasm, they obviously get a lot from the visit. There was a number of plot holders also in attendance.

Thank you to all those who turned up and helped.

Tea Party Thank You

Walmley Infant School hosted a tea party on the 17th July 2019 for all ploholders to attend. This was a thank you to WAAA for accommodating the infants on all of their visits so far this year.

PLOT VACANCIES

We now have NO vacant plots available.

Hopefully we will still encourage some more budding gardeners so you never know we may have to start a waiting list.

We do encourage everyone to inform us in confidence if they cannot attend site for personal reasons. We can then endeavor to help keep these plots in some kind of order until such time as you can return or decide to surrender the tenancy. Where possible we will try and cover them over.

FUTURE PROJECTS AND FUNDING

The following are projects we are running with that all need to be externally funded. There is no guarantee we will get any of these but they are things we are aiming to achieve to improve the site.

Project 1 – Funding from Sutton Town Council

- Purchase of a poly tunnel. We have received positive feedback from plot holders about the usefulness of a communal poly tunnel. We are still pursuing this and the current intention is to site this on plot 27a.
- Schools Community Project and gazebo. We have obtained quotes for the purchase and installation of a communal gazebo on Plot 8. This would include the base materials, crushed limestone surrounds, extension to the car parking area, a gazebo with closed back and side with an open front, a pitched roof and with 3 growing beds. We have to wait until September to find out if the funding has been approved from Sutton Town Council.

Project 2 – Funding from Sutton Municipal Charity

- Extension to site hut. We are hoping to extend the site hut, including extending the base and internal furnishing. Work on the base would be carried out 'In House'.
- Installation of electricity and water supply for the site hut. We are to check with Staffs Water and Western Power to ensure feasibility.
- Refurbishment of the toilets.

OH IT'S SO SLOW TO GET TO FLO - PROGRESS MADE!!

The Flo Pickering Fund is a fund set up to help allotments throughout the city. The revenue is from the sale and development of allotments. So every time an allotment is sold off the money is supposed to go to the upkeep of remaining allotments. Particularly roads, fences and asbestos removal.

The BDAC (Birmingham & District Allotments Committee) has been trying for years to get some of this money released. After a protracted battle over the last 18 months they are now getting somewhere.

We, along with other allotments have had a visit from the BDAC, Birmingham City Council and approved contractors to review what repairs we have requested from the Flo Pickering fund.

We believe we may now get repairs to the fence by the main car park and an extension to the metal fencing around plot 1 and 2.

We await the final approval.

Plot Numbers

Remember, everyone should be displaying their plot number. There are many different styles available or you can of course make your own.



This will help us all to know which plots are being cultivated. It also helps our new members find their way around.

Thank you to those who have already displayed your number.