

Walmley Ash Allotment Association Newsletter

V5

NCS VOLUNTEER DAY X 2



On the 9th & 23rd of November we hosted our second group of teenage volunteers from the NCS (National Citizen Service).

On the 9th they met with members of the Committee to discuss what they could do for us. Despite the rain they had a brief walk around the site and we explained what we would like to achieve from their visit. It was agreed that they would set to on helping us to clear the overgrown hedge stretching from the Site Hut.



The aim being to clear an area for a second bay to hold wood chippings and to reinstate the flower border.

Members of the Committee arrived on site at 11:00 ready to help out.

The NCS arrived on site at around 11:30.

After a quick reminder on what was planned they equipped themselves with gardening tools that they had purchased en-route. Everyone was allocated an area of the border to concentrate on and all 8 willing hands got to work.

While the NCS were working on the border with Graham and Peter the other members of the committee tackled the area for the second bay.

Thankfully the rain held off and the temperature was pleasantly mild.

By lunchtime, the border and new bay were knocked into shape.

After lunch the NCS set to planting daffodils and perennial plants. The area was then covered in wood chippings to help suppress any unwanted growth.



The committee continued with the clearing of the new bay.

Thanks to the hard work of both the NCS teenagers and Committee we can now see the border and have an area cleared ready to create the new bay.

We are once again very pleased with what has been achieved.



It was another very successful and satisfying day.

BIG THANKS to all the NCS team and Graham, Peter, Jennie, Lynne, Alan, Bev, Stan and Ann. Thanks also go to Robin and Jeff for providing hot drinks and cakes for all involved.

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

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

RENT RENEWAL

We had a great response to rent collection this year. All rents were in by 20th October.

Thank you to everyone for using the new methods and helping to make this a much smoother process.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

As agreed at the AGM and introduced into our WAAA Constitution each plot can now nominate a secondary person as an Associate Member based on the following terms:-

Associate members: A spouse, partner, son, or daughter etc. that actively takes part in the cultivation of a named members plot and will have voting rights and the right to be a member of the Committee but to be limited to one associate member per plot.

If you wish to nominate a second person for your plot then please email waaasec@gmail.com your plot number, named person and if possible their email address. Alternatively post the details into the site letterbox.

STRAW and CHIPPINGS

It was agreed at this year's AGM that with immediate effect the price for a wheelbarrow of straw, manure or chippings would go up to 50p.

Alternatively you can pay a yearly subscription of £10 if you have a full plot, £5 if you have a half plot or £2.50 for a quarter plot.

WOODCHIP USES

Anyone wishing to check what can be done with wood chippings might like to have a look at this webpage

<https://learningandyearning.com/wood-chips>

WATER and TOILETS

The water will be turned off on the 1st December and not put back on until 1st March.

However this year we will be leaving the toilets open and will provide a bucket so that they can be filled with water and used to flush away any deposits. Please be courteous to everyone and flush after yourself.

BDAC COMPETITIONS

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

So we are hoping to re-enter some of the below again next year.



The Most Improved Site
The Best Managed Site in Birmingham
The Best Plot in Birmingham
The Best newcomer

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

HIDDEN CAMERAS

The use of hidden cameras is proving to be a useful deterrent.

We have had no incidents reported since they were introduced.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Spinney will be locked from 1st December till 1st March over the winter to avoid any incidents. . This will allow the area to settle over winter.

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.

GRASS BY SPINNEY

After weeks of preparation the area around the spinney gate has now been grassed over. Big thanks to Graham for organising the delivery of grass and the initial clearing and keeping it down while we agreed what to do with it. Thanks to Alan for assisting Graham with a maintenance dose of strimming. Grateful thanks to David D for applying his tiller to the area.

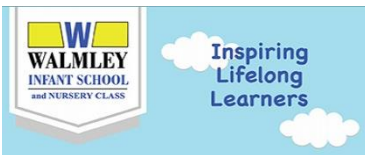


Thank you to everyone who helped on the day - namely, Graham C, Stan P, Alan S, Peter H, Peter C, Sue G, Christine H, Kenneth H, John N, John C and me.

Pictures of the progress and result are on the website.

SCHOOL VISITS

Walmley infant school visited the site again on 6th November 2019, altogether 90 pupils, in batches of 30, were on site between 9.30am - 11.30am.



Once again Elaine organized 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.

PLOT VACANCIES

We now have a waiting list for plot vacancies. Hopefully we will continue to encourage more budding gardeners

We do encourage everyone to let us know, in confidence, if they are unable to attend to their plot for personal reasons or are struggling to maintain all of it. It may be that you reduce the size of it. 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.

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.

POLYTUNNEL UPDATE

Due to the lack of a suitable site, lack of funds, excessive administration and limited benefits to plottolders the committee have decided **not** to proceed with a polytunnel.

FUTURE PROJECTS AND FUNDING

The following are projects we are running with that all need to be externally funded. They are things we are aiming to achieve to improve the site.

Project 1 – Funding from Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council’s Community Grant Programme and Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust.

Schools Community Project and gazebo.

We are pleased to say we have been awarded funding for the purchase and installation of a communal gazebo along with raised beds on Plot 8. The gazebo will have a closed back and side with an open front, a pitched roof and with 3 growing beds.

This will be Funded by Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council’s Community Grant Programme.



Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust has awarded us the additional funds for the ground works.



This would include the base materials, crushed limestone surrounds, and extension to the car parking area.

Refurbishment of the toilets.

Good news is that funding for this has also been agreed from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust.

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.

OH IT’S SO GOOD TO GET TO FLO!!

We have now had the fence by the main car park repaired and an extension to the metal fencing around plot 1 and 2. They have also repaired the metal fencing by Plot 1 after a huge tree had fallen on it and caused it to buckle and bend.

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 2 years they have now got approval to carry out work on all sites that have requested it.

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