

The committee extends a warm welcome to all the new members who have joined the association since the autumn. This is the first newsletter this year as there wasn't a lot happening over the winter months but we are now revving up to what will hopefully be another productive and enjoyable year on our plots.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

On a sunny day we can be tempted to start sowing and planting especially when gardening programmes aimed at those who live a lot further south than 55 degrees, are telling us to sow seeds. Many of us have been caught out in previous years with late frosts which have wiped out early seedlings. Frank Snowdon has been busy in the poly tunnel and will be providing plants to sell at the beginning of May.

Last year Frank did a monthly blog on tips for each month. They can be found on the website and are extremely helpful especially to anyone new to the site. <http://littlemooralotments.com>

WATER

We all know what a precious commodity water is. Luckily the North escaped the water restrictions imposed on much of the country last summer but that shouldn't make us complacent. Wherever possible please install a water butt. This will help to reduce the water bill. Last year we paid £1150

Over watering of plants means roots stay superficial which in turn makes the plant more susceptible to being blown over in strong winds

LEASE

The Freeman have now issued us with a draft lease. We are in discussion with the other allotment sites who are transferring. There are several issues which we are seeking clarification on.

AGM

The AGM went ahead as planned for the first time in a few years at the South Northumberland Cricket Club on 7th February. The event was well attended and made for interesting debate about the future of the association with new landlords (the Freeman) and how we propose to manage the trading hut's place in moving to peat free compost in 2024. The meeting also showed that members have got used to receiving reports and accounts sometime prior to the meeting and in future years it seems right that this continues.

Prizes were awarded for;

Best plot– Maria and Jeff Plot 110/111

Best newcomer Becky Plot 108

Most improved plot David Plot 21

NATIONAL ALLOTMENT WEEK 7th -13th AUGUST

To celebrate National Allotment week this year, we will be holding an open day on Saturday the 12th August. Further details will be sent nearer the time with a request for help on the day

TIDY UP DATE, 30th APRIL

We hope this year we will get the same great turnout of volunteers for work around the site. The first date this year is 30th April. There are a variety of jobs which need tackling. Please bring gloves and a wheelbarrow and meet at the Trading Hut at 10 am.

SKIP, CHIP and MUCK

Wood chip is provided free by West Jesmond Tree Surgeon. There will be a delivery to both sides in the next couple of weeks

Manure is purchased in the Autumn. Last year we spent £200

Skips are ordered as and when required but now cost over £300. Despite asking that only items which are not recyclable be put in the skip we still had wood, soil etc put in.

NUMBERING OF PLOTS

There are a lot of plots that don't have their plot number visible. Tony Robson has now started work on making signs which will be placed on plots where there is no number on display.

TRADING HUT

The Trading Hut is now open from 10am to 12md. Please check the website for the full list of items on sale. There are a number of second hand tools which are available for a small donation.

SEED SWAP

It has been suggested that any unused/unwanted seeds could be left at the Trading Hut. There is a rack on the hut door where you can place or take any packets.

Any excess plants/produce can be left on the round table by the Trading Hut for anyone to take. The collections for the Food Kitchens will start in June

TALLEST SUNFLOWER ,HEAVIEST PUMPKIN COMPETITION

We are reintroducing the competition for the tallest sunflower and heaviest pumpkin. Details will be posted on the website shortly.



Here's to a happy and productive year on our plots

Best wishes

Your Committee