



# NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-Operative Allotment Association

## Company Secretary's Report

This could definitely be described as that year that the best laid plans went out of the window. Your Chairman has covered our response to the pandemic and so I will not dwell on this other than to thank members for complying with the restrictions and for helping those members who were shielding.

Other positive outcomes during the year are that we were awarded a grant of £2,000 by the National Allotment Gardens Trust to create a social and wildlife area at Coach Road. This work has been delayed by Coronavirus but Jackie our Coach field manager is keen to get things moving and any help would be gratefully received. Please contact your Field Manager or me if you can spare some time to help.

Other achievements are that we reviewed and updated our 5 year plan, agreed a new protocol for late payment of rents and that our working relationship with the Town Council who are our landlords has continued to strengthen. The Town Council were very supportive at the start of the Coronavirus lockdown and helped us keep the fields open. This was not the case in some other parts of the country. The Council also gave us a grant of £250 towards plants for the Decoy wildlife area and some more fruit trees for the new orchard area.

Our monthly newsletter is also now a regular feature and I would like to thank Meryl for her hard work in preparing this with new content each month. Please contact Meryl via our [info@nadcaa.org.uk](mailto:info@nadcaa.org.uk) email if you have any comments or suggestions for future articles in the newsletter.

This year has not been without its challenges though and one in particular has been the difficulties we have faced with respect to the new allotment fields that are being provided by developers at Hele Park. One of the fields has a flooding problem and the other has no access other than 20 or so steep steps and has no meaningful topsoil and so cannot be used for growing crops in its current state. Your Chairman and I will continue to lobby for these issues to be addressed to enable these fields to be brought into use.

Earlier in the year our Treasurer Anna was unable to continue her duties and so I took over the reins for a couple of months or so. Anna has now resumed her duties but has advised that she cannot continue in the role after March next year and so we will need a new Treasurer going forward. The majority of our transactions are now online and so the role is no longer as time consuming as it perhaps once was. Please contact Tim, Anna or myself if you would like further information on the role.

The pandemic also meant that we had to cancel our participation in the National Gardens Scheme that was scheduled for this summer. We have however enrolled again for 2021 and fingers crossed this will go ahead this time.

Looking forward, over the next couple of months your committee will be reviewing current procedures and policies to ensure they are all still valid and up to date and we will be preparing new guidance on minimum standards of cultivation. This has become more pertinent recently as one outcome of the pandemic has been a big increase in demand for allotments both nationally and locally. One impact of this is that we are having to take a firmer stance when plots are not being cultivated.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the comments made by your Chairman in connection with your management committee. I believe that we have a strong organisation that is financially secure with good governance by a dedicated group of volunteers. But we must not be complacent and more importantly we need new volunteers to get involved so that we continue to build resilience and to ensure that we do not become too dependent on a small group of committed members.