



NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-operative Allotment Association

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020



A.G.M. COVID STYLE. All the fields were represented at the meeting. Our thanks to Kevin Johns and Carole Beech who held the posts of one of the Decoy Field Managers and Membership Sec. respectively, previously for their hard work. Kevin is now Deputy Manager of the Allotment Shop. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances our Treasurer will also be leaving but has agreed to stay on until March, whilst we find a replacement. Interested? or you want to know more, please contact us on info@nadcaa.org.uk. The following were re-elected: **Directors.** Chair. Tim Callard; Secretary. Steven Garlick; Treasurer. Anna Taylor; Shop Manager. Ferai Akyol. **Other committee members.** Liz Colston. Administrator. Simon Wright. Health and Safety Officer. Jane Sturley Membership Secretary. Meryl Basham. Environment and Communications. Chrystal Cowling. Annual Allotment Comp. Nick Hamzija. Field Manager, Blake's. Mike Dart, Field Manager. Bradley. Jackie Jennings, Field Manager Coach Rd. Julia Sims. Field Manager, Cooke's. Mike Daniel. Field Manager, Decoy. Chris Murch. Field Manager Decoy. New volunteers on the Committee would be welcome - if you are interested contact your Field Manager, email, or Secretary on 07804 122826

Tim Callard expressed his thanks to all members on behalf of the for following the Emergency Guidelines re Covid. This has enabled open whereas some allotments elsewhere have closed.



Committee us to remain

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. People who have given up their allotments due to ill health or other reasons, can now be an Associate Member for £10. This means they can still use the allotment shop, join in our social events, and enjoy the wildlife areas.



PHOTO COMPETITION. Last call. Entry closes September 30th so send your photos in now. Prizes for First, Second and Third winners.



To be judged by Andrew Cooper. Naturalist.



KEEP SPOTTING. Thank you to all those reporting sighting's of wildlife on our website. We are working with Devon Wildlife Trust, when Covid allows, and the more we let people know the diversity of allotments, the better we can make a case for more of them to be available.

Anyone interested in a Bat/Moth Event? It needs to take place in the early evening and numbers are limited email: info@nadcaa.org.uk.



DECOY WILDLIFE WORK PARTY. Help needed October 3rd 10am-4pm even if it is for just half an hour. Thanks. Meryl Basham

Pesticides & Herbicides



The Management Committee would like to work toward all sites being pesticide and herbicide free. We all know how much damage they do to both our wildlife and the environment, and it is up to all of us to do more to protect what little wildlife we have left on our fields. At the same time we must work towards creating habitat for wildlife displaced by all the developments going on in the area. Before lockdown we started to work with the Devon Wildlife Trust. They were extremely interested in what we were doing on the allotment fields to preserve and create habitat, and full of praise for what we had already achieved.

No matter what the pest there is a natural solution, there is no need for mass spraying of pesticides and herbicides. I know that the majority of members already realise that spraying is bad for the wildlife and for them in the long term. So please support us in our goal of being a Pesticide and Herbicide free Association. Read the DWT report on our website - <https://nadcaa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/DWT-Insect-Declines.pdf>

Thanks Tim Callard (Chairman)

Decoy Field Oxalis Alert



A good turn in the spring has turned into a nightmare on several plots on Decoy Field. We understand that a plot that had Oxalis on it was rotovated as a good turn for a member. The subsequent rotovation of two large plots and (we think) two or three smaller ones, has led to the spread of this weed on a massive scale, with two plots being entirely covered from top to bottom in the weed sometimes called Wood Sorrell. Several members have been in contact concerned about the spread.

How to identify it - It has three purple, heart shaped leaves, which each have three sides that sit symmetrical to one another at the end of every stem. Other species are similar in shape, except they tend to have green leaves instead.

The plant is very difficult to kill. The leaves are Hydrophobic so they repel any kind of spray, it can also revive itself from the dead! Rather than being intrinsically linked with the soil like many other plants, Oxalis is linked to the soil by its tiny bulbs. It can survive drought, cold and just about anything you can throw at it. If the top growth dies it takes refuge in the tiny bulbs about 4 inches below the surface. Then it comes back to life incredibly quickly.

All members at Decoy need to look out for this weed and try to eradicate it. How? - Although it is a long and laborious task use a spade and get underneath each plant and lift the soil it is living in as well as the plant itself and gently drop it into a wheelbarrow, then carefully remove the small bulbs and put them into a bucket and drown them in water over a period of many weeks. Don't whatever you do put them on your compost heap or in the hedges. We reluctantly gave permission for the members that have two plots completely covered in this weed to use a herbicide recommended by the RHS, result - everything above ground died, but now two weeks later it is growing again.