



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020

WHAT A YEAR WE HAVE HAD! COVID-19, lockdowns, not being able to have the best allotment competition or Fruit and Veg show. No bacon buttie events!!! Thank goodness for allotments - an oasis of peace and calm.



Well, not quite mountains but we have achieved a lot this year working as a committee of volunteers and everyone complying with Covid rules to keep our

allotments open. To the many kind allotment volunteers who helped the members who were shielding during lockdown, and to everyone who has worked on the wildlife areas.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED? £££ Anna Taylor, our Treasurer, ensured our accounts were sent off and accepted by Company House. Ferai Akyol, who manages the Association Shop, started an online ordering system that allowed members access to products throughout the year. He was helped by his new assistant manager Kevin Johns and many volunteers.



Tim and Steve have worked tirelessly with Newton Abbot Town Council to ensure that the allotment fields remained open. Negotiations are on-going with Teignbridge District Council and developers regarding new allotment fields. Steve also submitted a revised plan for allotments due to be delivered in the local plan.



- Several grants have been obtained to support wildlife areas on all fields and the creation of a new social area at Coach Road.
- Coach Road and Cooke's Field have had new locks for gates and a dying tree will soon be dealt with on Cooke's. There are still problems with the track to Cooke's Field which we hope will be resolved soon.
- Blake's Field boundaries were verified following a meeting with the Landlord and the developers.

Promoting Allotments and Biodiversity

- We have had several articles in the local newspapers and the National Allotment Magazine. We have a regular newsletter (anyone can contribute by emailing Meryl Environment/Communications. at info@nadcaa.org.uk) A one-off spot-on Radio Devon Gardening programme for Meryl and Tim had a regular spot for many weeks.
- Tim is currently in discussion with the Devon Wildlife Trust who said our allotments are amazing for bio- diversity. Watch this space for further news
- We also worked with Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project in their annual survey.
- Tim has been maintaining the website and ensures the information is current.



SUPPORT Chrystal Cowling is our Support officer and ensures we have laminated notices to all fields and usually organises the annual allotment judging competition.

HEALTH AND SAFETY Simon Wright has dealt with several instances of asbestos found on the allotments. He also does risk assessments on the fields and for any big projects we have, and has been advising us on Covid 19.



MEMBERSHIP AND COMPUTER SYSTEM Jane Sturley Membership Secretary, works hard to re-allocate allotments as soon as people have given them up. Whilst Liz Colston our Administrator has all the hassle of the computer system and communications by email. We now received a grant from Newton Abbot Town Council for much of the cost of this.



FIELD MANAGERS Mike Daniels & Chris Murch at Decoy, Mike Dart at Bradley, Nick Hamzij at Blake's (Who also organises our Fruit and Veg. Show) Jackie Jennings at Coach Road, and Julia Sims at Cooke's Field, have all done a tremendous job of ensuring all is well on our fields, helping people and checking if anyone is not well. Ensuring allotment holders are complying with allotment rules so that our landlords are satisfied and that we are managing them properly.

Bradley Field - Thanks to Mike Dart a beautiful new picnic bench has been built to put in the new fruit tree area for allotmenters to sit and enjoy the view. Well done Mike.



Welcome to our new Treasurer, Maggie Daniels - who will gradually be taking over from Anna.

Our dates for the National Garden Scheme opening for 2021 are 12th and 13th June at Decoy Field and Ferai's garden.

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN I think Meryl has summed things up pretty well so I won't waste your time by repeating what she has already said. Almost every year we seem to be challenged by something we have never dealt with before and which we have no expertise in, GDPR comes to mind. Covid 19 was different we were thrust unwillingly into the position of ensuring that members lives were protected, something that nobody could be prepared for. I want to thank the entire Committee especially Secretary Steve Garlick for his logical, calm approach to everything this year. Zoom meetings have been a godsend and we have conducted business more quickly due to the 40 minute time limit, it does help concentrate the mind. I also want to thank the entire membership for their forbearance during a year that I think most of us will want to forget. If you had failed to follow the guidance we issued, then I am sure that the fields would have been closed. So thank you to each and every one of you. Vaccines are on the way and hopefully by Summer we can all get back to some sort of normality. I urge you all to have a safe Christmas and as a result a Happy New Year. And thank you Meryl for all the work you put into these newsletters every month. Tim Callard (Chairman)



Wishing everyone health and productive allotments and a better New Year from all the Committee. Here's hoping we can have social events in the Spring.