



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

As we come to the end of an extremely busy and challenging year there are plenty of positives for NADCAA, and is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved, what we need to concentrate on moving forward, and sadly some issues that could ultimately lead to volunteers saying they want no more to do with the running of this member lead association.

Looking Back – Grants were obtained for a lockable, waterproof, freestanding notice board on Cooke's Field, the materials for a new roof for the covered area on the new Orchard Education area at Decoy and materials for a covered social area on Bradley Field.

Kingfishers were spotted on Bradley and Decoy Fields and Otters in the brook at Decoy and in the lake at Decoy Country Park!!

We said a sad farewell to Ken Hooper a long-time member of Bradley Field Allotments, Ken was an excellent grower with a very dry sense of humour, many followed Ken's method of gardening.

The National Garden Scheme – Meryl organised two open afternoons on Saturday June 12th and Sunday June 13th on Decoy Field. We received loads of positive comments about this open day from Councillors that attended and members of the public. Thanks to everyone that made it possible.

Hedgehog sightings have now been reported on every allotment field, proof that members are taking more care with pesticides particularly slug pellets. Our wildlife is still in crisis so don't stop now as there is still a long way to go.

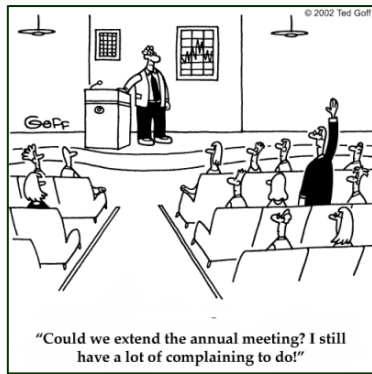
Following abusive behaviour from members two of our field managers made the decision to stand down this year. We are all allotment gardeners together, please don't attack the people that are giving up their free time to ensure that our fields run smoothly.

Our Association Shop has had an even better year this year than in 2020, and huge thanks must go to Ferai, Kevin and the volunteers for this valuable asset used by so many members across the Association. Ferai is warning that suppliers are already advising him that some items may increase in price by as much as 65% in 2022 and as a precaution he is ordering now at 2021 prices.

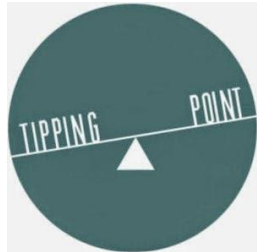
With more young members joining the Association, we were asked to think again about a presence on Facebook and a private group and Facebook page has now been created. Thanks must go to Lynsey, Keith, Charlie & Rebecca for all the work they have put into setting this up. The group is working well with tips and recipes being shared.

We continue to have a strong relationship with Landlords Newton Abbot Town Council and the Association was praised by the Council for its reports to the annual meeting with the Allotment Sub Committee in connection with the unmet demand for plots, the local Plan and the governance of the Association. Our opinion on allotment matters is held in high regard by our Landlords, testament to the professional way that all the various committees have run this association over the 100 years that we have been managing the allotments in Newton Abbot.

Sadly there has been no action regarding the new allotment fields at Hele Park. It has been two years since our initial meeting with the Site Manager and 12 months since our meeting with the Regional Manager of Taylor Wimpey. A meeting with a Persimmon representative did nothing to move their field forward and letters to both CEO's from the Secretary have had not lead to the fields being prepared for use. As volunteers we can only do so much, but we do keep on trying.



The AGM was well attended with the Proxy Voting system working well. Thank you to all of you who participated in this important decision making process. Thanks also to those of who have paid next year's rent promptly, chasing up late payers is both time consuming and costly. As a reminder from the 1st January the new tenancy agreement and cultivation standards that were passed at the AGM will be come into force.



Tipping Point has become a common phrase usually linked to the planet and Climate Change (and a popular quiz show!) but as was stated at the AGM, we are a member owned Association and we can only exist if we have sufficient volunteers to carry out the day to day management that is required.

We were fortunate in that two members stepped up to take over the vacant field manager roles at Bradley and Coach Road but we need to build resilience and to reduce our dependence on a small number of members.

Meryl our Environmental Officer and Communications Officer has unfortunately had to step down following illness and we will miss her contribution enormously. Meryl had a knack for getting other organisations involved, whilst at the same time advising them about what we were doing. We urgently need fresh blood to come onto the committee to continue the great work Meryl has been doing. Please think long and hard about whether this could be you!

Chrystal has also recently resigned as Judging and Field Manager Support Officer. Our sincere thanks to her for all the work she has done over the past few years. There does seem to be a declining interest in plot judging and an increase in interest in the Annual Fruit & Veg. show organised by Nick and we are currently considering re-directing the money from plot judging to this show and will be discussing it further in the New Year. If you have any thoughts on this, please let us know.



Closing note from our Chairman:

I want to thank everyone who has done so much to keep the Association running over the past couple of difficult years. On behalf of all the volunteers that you elected to run NADCAA, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.