



NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-Operative Allotment Association

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



As we begin what will undoubtedly be a busy year with many challenges ahead, especially in the area of securing more allotments for the town, we need to ask again for more members to offer to volunteer to help. In particular we need a volunteer to look after communications and environmental issues. This Association belongs to us all, and without more volunteers important tools like this Newsletter may cease to be provided.



Tool Sharpening Session – One of our members, Clive Burton, will be available to sharpen secateurs outside the shop on Decoy Field on Saturday 5th February between 10.00am and 12. He will sharpen your secateurs for you and demonstrate how to sharpen your own. Refreshments will be available to purchase from the shop. No booking required, it will be first come first served!



The shop will open for the season on January 29th and will be open on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday 10.30 – 12.30. If you want to contact Ferai directly his number is on the web site at – <https://nadcaa.org.uk/shop/> Potatoes and onions are in, and it is fully stocked at last year's prices.



A 'must-see' documentary for everyone who tills the soil!! "Kiss the Ground" can be seen on Netflix and shows the positive effect on the planet of regenerative agriculture. A must see for anyone considering going No Dig.



Cultivation Update – Across our fields it seems that approximately 10% of plots are currently not being cultivated, that equates to almost 40 plots!! This situation reflects badly on the member, badly on the Association and puts the association in breach of its lease with the Town Council. The new Tenancy Agreement agreed last year tackles this in many ways, especially where new members fail to fulfil the conditions of tenancy. Councillors do walk past and have access to the fields and they do report back what they see. The current dry unseasonal weather is ideal for preparing your plots for the coming season, so let's get these plots cultivated!!



Teignbridge District Council are holding a webinar in February on Newton Abbot as a garden community and we will once again be fighting the cause for the prospective members at Hele Park, who are still waiting for allotments eight years after house construction began.



Colony Upgrade – It is impossible to run NADCAA without a Management Package, and Colony, which was designed by an allotment gardener, has served us well. However a new improved web based system is now available and we are hoping to upgrade to this in February.



Here are some "quick tips" regarding jobs to be done in January for our members new to allotment gardening. Winter prune apple trees before they wake up, tie in summer raspberries and cut down autumn raspberries, feed with sulphate of potash. Fruit trees like plums expend a lot of energy producing the stone in the fruit, they benefit from a feed of lime flour at this time of year. Sow sweet peas in the greenhouse.

Wishing you a good season on behalf of all the NADCAA Volunteers - Tim Callard (Chairman)