

# Broughton Allotments

Nook and Coldgill Sites



## IN THIS ISSUE

### General update

Allotment availability. Please contact Becx and request that your name goes on the waiting list, stating your preferences.

### Items that need addressing

Signage, pathways, vermin, weeds, water, fly tipping

### Our next allotment holders meeting

Time to meet up again and consider what next, including revisiting the costs.

Hello everyone,

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This is our first newsletter and we hope you find it informative and we would welcome suggestions for our next newsletter due out in Spring 2022. Mary and Bill recently completed the September walk round and following this a number of ideas as well as issues arose. Becx as Parish Clerk is writing to a few people and also busy preparing the tenancy invoices for 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 21 to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 22. Despite the fun on Facebook – you can't pay with donations of vegetables! In general the Allotments look good and the produce on then this year has been amazing. Enormous Pumpkins, bright red chard, multitude of courgettes and so much more. The Ducks and Hens greet everyone and lay very tasty eggs.

**THE PIGS on Nook Plot 1** by the bridle path. We have really struggled with this plot over a number of years and the current tenants are finding it a challenge. So we are giving Stuart special dispensation to run some pigs on here, adequately fenced in, until Xmas.

## **Signage**

We intended this year to number all the allotments but somehow never quite got round to it. However over the winter months we will put a number on your allotment. This is to avoid problems when allotments need quick identification eg when hens escape!

## **Pathways**

If your allotment has a boundary with a common walk way or track , you are required to keep it mown and in good order as part of your tenancy. Thank you to all who do this regularly as part of the routine maintenance.

Recently we have had a few issues with fencing that has become dangerous and leaning out on to the pathways. Please can you do some winter maintenance and make sure yours is safe for others to walk past.

## **Weeds**

We recognise the desire to grow pollinators, but vegetable growers are struggling a bit with invasive weeds. We are trying to control the 'mares tale' but need help from everyone to keep their allotments trimmed and to pull up and dispose of all the Himalayan Balsam.

The streams will be on the maintenance schedule next year and hopefully this will help.

## **Vermin**

Allotment holders choose at the last review to remove the cost of vermin control from the tenancies and deal with it themselves. Unfortunately we have needed to resort on a couple of occasions to professional help. Its up to you .. if you don't want it on your bill then please try and deal with our furry friends!

## **Water**

Thank you to Malcolm, Nelly and Stuart and anyone else who has maintained our water supply this year. Soon we will be putting the winter covers on. Please replace these after using the taps as it does assist a little in keeping them frost free.

Water is an expensive item on your invoices and if everyone harvested water, this could reduce significantly. So barrels, tubs and buckets at the ready to catch every drop we can.

## **Boundary fences**

The boundary fences are always a bit of an issue. Please do not make walk ways through them, even with gates. This encourages non allotment holders and although fortunately we have little vandalism and stealing, it does happen. If there is an issue or a gap, please let Becx or Mary know.

## **Scrap Metal, General Waste, Fly tipping**

Recycling is good – and putting out surplus wood, fencing etc is to be encouraged BUT we no longer have a scrap metal collector and certainly no one to take your rubbish to the tip.

When I am filling up my car with old child seats, metal and much more to take to the council tip, I feel really annoyed! Thanks to Adrian and Stuart of the assistance in getting rid of the cooker, fridges and some of the scrap.

## **Next allotment holders meeting**

5 years ago we start on a journey to sort out all the issues associated with the allotments. Most of these were identified by yourselves and over the past 4 years, much progress has been made. One of the items was to measure the plots and charge by the meter, currently 17.5p, which still makes us very cheap!. We put into place a phased uplift for plot holders for whom the rise would have been significant. This is the final year of leveling up. We now need to revisit this and some of the other issues and decide what you would like us to do next.

You also decided not to have a formal allotment arrangement and I understand the small group who met , don't any more. Maybe you want to revisit this?

A date and venue for a meeting will be circulated early in the New Year.