



# March 2025 News Update

## *Committee meeting report*

At the Committee Meeting on 11th March, it agreed that Mike Lyon, former Chair, and Marion Garratt, former Treasurer, would be removed as bank signatories so that Marie Hanley, Secretary, and Ben Taylor, Acting Treasurer could be added. Marion's contact details at the bank will be replaced by Ben's as he takes over the role of Treasurer. Thanks were again expressed to Marion for her ongoing support over the transition period.

The working party of members looking into the possibility of installing a defibrillator on site has concluded that it is not feasible. They have, however, suggested that CPR courses would be beneficial and could be held on site. Marie will follow this up with members of the working party.

It is planned that the shed on the Community Plot will be made available to all members to make a hot drink or just sit and chat with other members. The door lock has

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been replaced, and we hope that a system whereby key access can be made available to members will be in place very soon. Wildflower seeds have now been sown in the beds on the Community Plot, and hopefully this summer it will provide an attractive area for members to socialise. Thanks to Committee member Alison for her work on this.

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### **Prize winners from last year**

If you haven't already done so, please use your vouchers as they will expire very soon.

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### **Easter Social Event**

Following the very successful social event marking the reopening of the Trading Post, on Saturday 19th April, we will be holding an Easter "coffee morning" on the Community Plot from 10.00 to 12.00. As last time, hot drinks, cakes and snacks will be on offer, and there will also be an Easter egg hunt for any children who come along. Please see posters around the site for more information.

In response to suggestions from members, a collection tin will be available, and all money raised will be donated to the Arnold Food bank.



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### **Inspections**

Inspections have now started and will be carried out throughout the growing season. Many members have clearly made a good

start, as there was plenty of evidence of plots being made ready for this year's crops. However, a few plots are still looking somewhat abandoned, and some members will have received emails about this. We currently have a very long waiting list, so we expect those who are lucky enough to have an allotment to make full use of it.

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### **Road Widening**

We would like to thank all members for their patience whilst work was done on widening corner of the road through the allotment. It has been a long, drawn-out process which began at the AGM in 2023, when a member expressed concern that a large vehicle such as a fire engine might struggle to make its way through the site. This was confirmed by the difficulty experienced by the skip lorries who delivered and collected the several skips we have hired recently.

Initially, it was thought that the internal corner could be cut, but this would have meant felling the plum tree that is there and taking growing space from the allotment, so it was decided to extend the external corner instead.

As our Lease with GBC makes it clear that maintenance of the road is their responsibility, the Committee at the time contacted them and submitted plans for approval. At the AGM last year, members were informed that we were still waiting to hear back from them. Eventually, we received news that they were happy with what we proposed and that they would provide the road stone for the project.

The builder who carried out the work had originally planned to install kerbing to ensure the corner remained stable but, once the excavation began, he discovered that the original kerbing was still in place. Clearly, the external corner had become overgrown over

the years. This further reduced the cost of the work from the original estimate and has restored the road corner to its original state.

### **Bonfires**

The hours when bonfires are allowed on the allotments has been changed slightly. They are now permitted from Monday to Friday between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm, except on Bank Holidays. From the end of October, bonfires will also be permitted between these times on Saturdays and Sundays. Please see reminder notices on both gates. This will enable those members whose health is adversely affected by bonfire smoke to come up to their allotments in the afternoons.

We have had several instances recently of fires being lit outside the permitted times. Please be aware that, from now on, any member caught doing this will automatically receive a formal warning. If three such warnings are issued within a four-year period, the tenancy will be terminated. In fairness to those members who wish to avoid bonfire smoke, there will be no exceptions to this and it is up to every member to ensure that bonfires are properly extinguished before 1:00pm.

### **Artificial Grass**

We have noticed the presence of artificial grass on a few allotments. As this behaves in exactly the same way as does carpet, which is not permitted on allotments, we have decided to clarify the position and ban the use of artificial grass too. Members who have this on their plots have three months, until the end of June 2025, to remove it and replace it with a more suitable material such as bark chippings or paving slabs.

### **Keys and Padlocks**

We have become increasingly concerned about the number of gate keys that have been lost or not returned when a member leaves. The keys are very expensive to replace, so we have decided to introduce a deposit of £50 for all keys, with immediate effect.

### **Members updates**

Mike Lyon, our previous Chair, has recently undergone surgery. His wife reports that he has been quite poorly. He is still in hospital but is now out of intensive care. I'm sure you will join me in sending him good wishes for a speedy recovery.

I'm sorry to report that Phil Marson, Associate member on plot 57 died earlier this year. Our sympathy and condolences go to his wife Catherine and family at this sad time.

### **Contact information**

If you have any questions, comments, or information you would like including in the next news update, please contact [leapoolchair@gmail.com](mailto:leapoolchair@gmail.com)

### **Other contacts**

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