



Horfield & District Allotments Association

Summer Newsletter 2020

Summer is with us and vegetables, fruit and flowers on our allotments are growing apace. Hopefully your plot is thriving in the recent sunny weather.

This is the first in a new form of newsletter we are sending out as an e-mailshot to all H&DAA members - both tenants and Associate members. This replaces the previous paper newsletters.

In this newsletter we will cover:

- [Safety on the allotments during Covid-19](#)
- [Swapping plants and seeds with other plotholders.](#)
- [Delicious seasonal recipes from a local top chef](#)
- [Ashley Down Allotment Shop re-opening](#)
- [How to get a beautiful mural for your allotment shed](#)
- [What is an Associate Member?](#)
- [New plot signage for H&DAA](#)
- [Are you a budding photographer - photos wanted](#)
- [Bee swarms - what to do if you find one](#)
- [Community Garden Plant Sale](#)
- [How to get help with your plot if in self-isolation](#)
- [Contacting your Field Rep](#)

Covid-19 and allotments

Allotments have been described by many as a lifesaver during this pandemic and a safe haven to spend time socially distanced from others, either as part of your daily exercise regime or just a place to relax.. Signs have been put up on most of the gates to the allotment sites, explaining the care that should be taken when handling gates and padlocks. At Golden Hill there are hand sanitisers available at some of the gates. Otherwise you should follow the guidance on the website:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/techniques/allotment-safety/>

Unfortunately we have also had instances where children have been leaving their plots and roaming around the site not adhering to social distancing rules. While this is a minority of children, it has caused some distress to other plotholders. Please ensure your children are in your sight at all times.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/covid-19-advice/>

Swapping Plants and Seeds

During this Lockdown period, access to plants and seeds has been more difficult. The H&DAA Facebook page has been a great place to find people who have spare plants and half-used seed packets to swap. At the Golden Hill site this has been taken one step further with a seed swap table where seeds can be left and taken as required.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/seed-swapping/>



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Seasonal Recipes from Stephen Markwick

Top Chef Stephen Markwick (Bistro 21, Markwicks, Culinaria) is also a Birchall Road plotholder and he has offered to put a monthly recipe or two up on the H&DAA website for you to follow using your plot-grown veg and fruit. This starts in June with Gooseberries with Saffron Custard, and a delicious Spiced Broad Bean Puree.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/recipes/star-recipes-stephen-markwick/>

Ashley Down Shop now open

For your allotment supplies you can now go to the Ashley Down Allotment Shop which is open from 10.30am to noon every Saturday and Sunday. It had been shut because of Covid-19 but is open again now.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/advice/allotment-supplies/>

Beautiful murals painted on allotment sheds

One of our Golden Hill tenants, Claudia Lucia, is a mural artist. She paints flowers, birds and other wildlife on to internal and external walls, and during the lockdown has been painting allotment sheds. Her own shed is a fine example of her work.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/spruce-up-your-shed-with-a-beautiful-mural/>

If you would like a mural painted on your shed contact Claudia to discuss.

Associate Members

Many people are unable to get a plot on our allotments because there is a long waiting list; others feel they don't have the time to work a plot properly. An Associate Member has the right to help an existing tenant on their plot for just a small annual fee. If you know someone who wants to become an Associate Member, see the link below for details of how to apply.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/policies/associate-members/>

Plot signage.

At the Golden Hill site we are trialling some individual plot signs specially produced for H&DAA. We hope to procure these for all plots across our 3 sites in the future. They can be viewed here:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/new-plot-signs/>

Photographs wanted

If you have an allotment and like taking photographs why not send some photos of what's growing on your plot or other plots on our sites. Our Birchall Rd Field Rep, Kirstin, took these photos back in 2018:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/colourful-displays-summer-2018/>



<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/summer-2018-crops/>

We'd love to put some more photos on to our website.

Bee swarms

If you find a swarm of bees on the allotment, you should contact a swarm collector who is a registered member of the British BeeKeepers Association. Click this ink for details:

[https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/techniques/bee-swarms-explained/..](https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/techniques/bee-swarms-explained/)

Community Garden Plant Sale

This year's Golden Hill Spring Fair had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, we did have a Plant Sale in two sessions in May, organised by Pete Clee and the volunteers, which managed to raise hundreds of ££ for the Golden Hill Community Garden funds. There are still a few plants left for sale. Give Pete a call on 07913 953327 if you are interested in buying something.

Help with your plot

There may be some people who are not able to go to their plot because they are self-isolating or shielding from the Coronavirus. If you are one, contact your Field Reps to explain your situation and they will see if any help is available.

Another way of finding people willing to help is via the H&DAA Facebook Page: there are often requests and offers that are placed on this site. If you are not a member already you should join:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/handdaa>

Contacting your Field Rep

Each of our allotment sites or fields has one or more Field Reps. They can be contacted by email using the email addresses on the noticeboards (if present) or as detailed in the following link:

[https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/policies/field-representatives/:](https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/policies/field-representatives/)

That's all for now. If you have any comments, questions or ideas for future Newsletters, please send them to info@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk

Have a great summer and good gardening!
The H&DAA Team