

Winter Newsletter 2020

We're nearly at the end of what's been a very strange year. Despite (or maybe because of) the Covid pandemic, most plottolders seem to have had a good growing year at the allotment.

In this newsletter we will cover:

- 2021 Rent demands will be by email
- AGM arrangements for 2021
- Request for Resolutions for AGM
- Birchall Rd Site Improvements
- Golden Hill Community Hut Mural
- Allotment photos from 2020
- December webinar about Growing Trees in Bristol
- New Stephen Markwick recipes Summer/Autumn 2020
- [Ashley Down Allotment Shop winter opening times](#)
- [Contacting your Field Rep](#)
- HOCO Fruit Tree Sale
- New solar panels for the Golden Hill Balehouse
- BBC filming on Golden Hill
- Sweetcorn: human v. badger
- Keeping rats away from your plot
- Wanted: Spare seeds for refugees

2021 Rent Demands

For the first time, we are going to send out the Annual rent demands by email. We can only do this if we have your correct email address. Otherwise we will send out a paper rent letter as before. If you do NOT want to receive your rent demand by email please contact the H&DAA Plot Manager by email at pltmgr@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk

H&DAA 2021 AGM

The Annual General Meeting for 2021 is currently scheduled to be held on February 15th. We hope to hold this in person, but if Coronavirus restrictions are still in place, we may have the AGM online via Zoom. We will confirm arrangements when we send out the annual rent email/letter in January 2021.

AGM Resolutions

If you are an H&DAA member and you want to raise a matter at the 2021 AGM, can you please let us know by December 20th, 2020 at the latest. We need to include any resolutions in the AGM notice which will be sent out in early January. Email the H&DAA Secretary at secretary@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk



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Birchall Road Site Improvements

In recent months we have been busy with various improvements to the “fixtures and fittings” at our Birchall Road site. This includes a new gate at the top entrance to the site, new fencing at the Cranbrook Road boundary; new signs at both entrance gates; and additional risers to the steps down from Birchall Road entrance.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/improvements-at-birchall-road-site/>

Beautiful mural on the Community Garden shed

The Golden Hill Community Garden event shed, situated on the Golden Hill car park has been given a beautiful makeover by Claudia Lucia who is a mural artist. During the lockdown Claudia has been painting allotment sheds around the site on request.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/community-garden-hut-gets-a-makeover/>

Summer 2020 allotment photos

Nick Northcott, a Golden Hill plotholder, has been busy taking photos around his plot and others on the site this summer. Take a look at the wonderful array of crops and flowers that he has captured via this web links:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/gallery-of-allotment-photos/>

More Trees for Bristol Webinar

Clifton Climate Action and the Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Energy Group are hosting a free webinar, Getting More Trees for Bristol, at 7:30pm on Thursday, Dec 10th. Follow the link below for more details:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/getting-more-trees-for-bristol/>

or go direct to the booking page at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-online-talk-getting-more-trees-for-bristol-tickets-127739190357>

More Seasonal Recipes from Stephen Markwick

We have more recipes put together by top chef Stephen Markwick (Bistro 21, Markwicks, Culinaria) who is also a Birchall Road plotholder. The recipes now include winter warmers such as Spiced Lamb with Aubergines, Chickpeas and Apricots; and Butternut Squash and Radicchio Risotto.

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

Ashley Down Shop opening times

The Ashley Down Allotment Shop is shut during December, and will reopen again on January 9th 2021. After that date, it will be open again from 10.30am to noon every Saturday and Sunday.

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



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Contacting your Field Rep

Each of our allotment sites or fields has one of 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/>

Fruit Tree sale at HOCO

Owing to the pandemic, the normal Apple day at the Horfield Organic Community Orchard had to be cancelled. However, alternatives were provided and it may still be possible to buy fruit trees from HOCO if you follow the contact details available in this link:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/fruit-tree-sale/>

Golden Hill solar panels installed

During last winter's storms there was considerable damage to the tower that housed the solar panels in Golden Hill. Since then, there has been no power to the pump that moves water up the site to feed the tanks that then service the water troughs. This has now all changed as the original solar panels have been rehoused on to the Balehouse roof along with 2 new panels. Read about what this means in:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/golden-hill-gets-energy-boost/>

BBC Countryfile filming on Golden Hill

In late summer this year we had a BBC film crew come to our Golden Hill site to film for BBC Countryfile. They have a new initiative called Plant Britain which was launched on their November 29th programme. This is about encouraging everyone in the UK to plant trees, in particular, and to grow vegetables, fruit and flowers in general. They filmed some close-up footage of crops growing on plots and some aerial photos of the Golden Hill site. Have a look at the photos in the link below to see if you can see your plot!

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/bbc-eye-in-the-sky-over-golden-hill/>

Sweetcorn: human v. badger

Summer 2020 proved to be another battle between ploholders and pests, in particular between us and the pesky badger who insists on eating our sweetcorn just as it becomes ripe. However there are ways to combat this voracious animal – find out what some ploholders have been doing:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/sweetcorn-human-versus-badger/>

Keeping rats away from your plot

Some ploholders have noticed rats visiting the site more regularly. This article gives an insight into why this might be and what measures may discourage



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the rats from visiting your plot.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/policies/keeping-rats-at-bay/>

Wanted: Spare seeds for refugees

The Lemon Tree Trust charity has launched a “Gardener to Gardener” appeal to help people in refugee camp who are trying to grow food and flowers in their small home gardens. Find out more about this cause and how you can help by following the contact details in the link below:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/wanted-spare-seeds-for-refugees/>

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

We hope you have a good Christmas despite the restrictions and hope to see you on the other side of the pandemic in the spring!

The H&DAA Team