



## Winter Newsletter 2021

Here is a catch-up on things that have happened in H&DAA and on the allotment in the last few months. Most of the articles below have appeared on the H&DAA website since the last Summer Newsletter was sent out. We also give a provisional date for our next AGM in May 2022, and a link to the Annual Accounts for our last financial year.

In this newsletter we will cover:

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### **Date for your diary: H&DAA 2022 AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for 2022 is currently scheduled to be held on either Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> May. We will confirm arrangements in the New year when we confirm availability with the venue.

If you are an H&DAA member and you want to raise a matter at the 2022 AGM, can you please let us know by April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the latest. We need to include any resolutions in the AGM notice which will be sent out in early mid-April. Email the H&DAA Secretary at [secretary@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk](mailto:secretary@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk)

## **Annual Accounts for 2020/21**

The H&DAA Annual Accounts for 2021/21 are now up on the Members Area of the website and can be viewed following the link below. There is also a summary of the main financial highlights for the last 12 months. The Members Area password is PLOT2028.

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

## **2021 AGM Minutes and Chair Report**

The 2021 AGM was finally held in August 23<sup>rd</sup> at B&A Church Gloucester Road. This AGM had been postponed from February due to COVID restrictions. Although a number of people expressed concern about attending, the final attendance was around 40 members and included a local councillor.

The minutes and Chair's Report can be read at:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/agm-minutes-and-chairs-report/>

## **Beautiful Mural on Birchall Road Community Shed**

After painting the Golden Hill First Aid shed last summer, mural artist Claudia Lucia has now painted flowers, trees and birds on the Birchall Road site Community shed, . Claudia is also available on commission to paint allotment sheds around the site on request.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/new-mural-on-birchall-road-site/>

## **Antisocial activities on allotments**

If you see any suspicious activities on our sites we would encourage you to report them to the non emergency police number, 101, or via the website

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact/>. This is a particular issue on the Birchall Road site, which is open to the public, where non-members are suspected of causing damage to tenants' equipment and stealing crops.

## **Ashley Down Shop Winter opening times**

The Ashley Down Allotment Shop is shut from December 5<sup>th</sup> onwards, and will reopen again on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2022. After that date, it will be open again from 10.30am to noon every Saturday and Sunday.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/ashley-down-store-christmas-closure-new-year-re-opening/>

## **Wreath making event at Community Garden**

The annual wreath making was held at the Golden Hill Community Garden on November 27<sup>th</sup>, ably led by Lucy and her team of helpers. Another successful event with many happy customers.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/christmas-wreath-making-event/>

## **Bonfire Night is back at Golden Hill**

The bonfire night celebrations returned to our Golden Hill site this year and were sold out. This was a fundraising event for the Community Garden and the focal point was a bonfire which coincided with the firework display over at Bishop Rd and was a great place to watch the fireworks. Samosas, cake and hot drinks including hot mulled apple juice were sold.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/bonfire-night-is-back-at-golden-hill/>

## **Pesticide Amnesty**

The first pesticide amnesty was held in Bristol in October at two garden centres in the city. It was organised by Bristol City Council and allowed gardeners to bring in their old pesticide containers for safe disposal and learn about safer alternatives to these.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/pesticide-amnesty-events-23-24th-october/>



### **Golden Hill Site Improvements**

The main haulingway between the Donkey Lane entrance and the prison lane has been refurbished. The main activity here was to improve the drainage so that we do not suffer from the stream running down the hill.

Additionally the event space next to the car park by the Monk Road entrance has been totally refurbished, with the old decking being removed and replaced by a hard permeable stone surface.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/golden-hill-site-improvements/>

Following on from the work done in the summer on the main haulingway, we have had the groundworkers back to improve the drainage between Davies Field and St. Agnes Field.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/more-drainage-work-at-golden-hill/>

### **Record numbers wanting allotments**

Since lockdown began in March 2020, the number of people requesting to have an allotment at our sites has soared. All the plots on our sites are now fully occupied and we have waiting lists of around 6 years at most of our sites!

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/record-numbers-wanting-an-allotment/>

### **Pllotholders Work Party on Community Garden**

A large number of H&DAA pllotholders turned up on Saturday 25th September to help clear a flowerbed area around the Event Space at our Golden Hill site. This was organised and run by Lucy, the Golden Hill Community Garden project leader.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/pllotholders-work-party-on-community-garden/>

### **Refurbishment work on the Balehouse**

The Ecohouse (aka the Balehouse) at Golden Hill Community Garden has undergone a much-needed makeover after 8 years of wear and tear.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/refurbishment-work-on-the-balehouse/>

### **Golden Hill Community Garden in National press**

Our friends at the Golden Hill Community Garden have appeared in an article in the Guardian Newspaper. It features Lucy, our longstanding Community Garden Project worker, who is interviewed about the community-led groups that she runs.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/golden-hill-community-garden-in-national-press/>

### **Storm Arwen hits Golden Hill**

Storm Arwen hit Bristol in late November and one of the casualties was an old elm tree on the edge of the Golden Hill allotment site. As the photo shows, the wind blew this tree over so that it fell onto the Horfield Prison wall.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/winter-gales-bring-down-tree-at-golden-hill/>

### **A badger meets its end on Golden Hill**

Although they are rarely seen, it is known that badgers roam around our Golden Hill site, as the damage they do to sweetcorn crops is very real. It is believed that there is a badger sett in the grounds of the Redland Green School playing field site, adjacent to Longs Field and Donkey Lane. Definitive proof of badgers came in August when a dead badger was found next to a plot in St Agnes Field. We arranged for the Council to dispose of the dead animal.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/badger-meets-its-end-at-golden-hill/>

## How we beat the badgers to our sweetcorn

Growing sweetcorn at the Golden Hill site has become very frustrating over recent years. This is one plotholder's account of how they managed to outfox the badgers to grow sweetcorn successfully!

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/uncategorized/growing-sweetcorn-how-we-beat-the-badgers/>

## 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/>

Field Rep plot numbers are also in the following Table:

Baptist Field Reps			Longs Field Reps		
Plot	Name		Plot	Name	
19	Joe McSorley		23a, 31a	Steve Morgan	
33a, 34	Kathryn Sadler		10a/10	Dominic O'Dwyer	
33a, 34	Pete Bill				
Birchall Field Reps			St Agnes Field Reps		
Plot	Name		Plot	Name	
26a	Joe Baxter		7	Pete Clee	
8a	Kirstin Whimster		49, 50	Neil Pirie (Chair)	
9a	Tony Jones				
Grahams Field Reps			Davies Field Reps		
Plot	Name		Plot	Name	
Telecoms 15	Helen McCreadie		18,18a,19a	Steve Soffe	
Highbury 29a	Jamie Darke		2	Sarah Newns	
Useful names					
Name		Phone Number	Name		
Neil Pirie - Chair			Phil Hopkins – Treasurer		
Debbie Bradley - Secretary			Steve Soffe- Plot manager		
			Phil Hopkins – Website Manager		

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

We hope you have a good Christmas and hope to see you on the allotment in the spring!  
The H&DAA Team