



# Horfield & District Allotments Association

## Summer 2023 Newsletter

Dear Member/Associate Member,

Here is a catch-up on things that have happened on the allotments and in H&DAA in the last few months. Many of the articles below have appeared on the H&DAA website since the last Newsletter was sent out in January.

You are receiving this newsletter in paper format as we do not hold an email address for you. Email versions of this newsletter have built-in hyperlinks to the articles, so are easier to navigate. If you would like to receive future newsletters by email, please send your email address to [pltmgr@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk](mailto:pltmgr@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk).

For all latest news go to: <https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk>

In this newsletter we will cover:

- Harvest Fair 2023 date
- Golden Hill site on BBC TV!
- Family Food Action collection
- Repairs at Birchall Road site
- Padlock problems?
- 2023 AGM Minutes
- Rubbish disposal at Grahams
- Wood waste disposal
- Rats on the allotment
- Hydrology study
- Update on Balehouse Fire
- Vacancy for H&DAA Secretary
- Apple Day at HOCO
- H&DAA Facebook Group
- Allotment Supplies
- Contacting your Field Rep
- Field Rep phone contact details

### Harvest Fair 2023

The 2023 Harvest Fair is being held at our Golden Hill site on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1pm to 4pm. There will be lots of activities for kids, food, music and general frivolity. Please come along to support the Community Garden who need the funds raised by events like this to continue the community work they do.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/harvest-fair-2023-at-golden-hill/>

### Golden Hill on BBC TV!

Joe Swift of Gardener's World appeared at the Golden Hill Community Garden on August 4<sup>th</sup>. This programme can be found on the BBC iplayer – the article filmed at Golden Hill is the first item featured.

You can read more about it on



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<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/golden-hill-community-garden-features-on-gardeners-world/>

## Family Food Action

As shown in the Gardener's World feature, the collection of surplus produce at Golden Hill is still taking place very successfully. You can leave any of your fresh vegetables or fruit at the collection point by the Community Garden entrance at any time up to Tuesday morning, when it gets taken to the Ardagh for sorting and distribution,

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/surplus-food-collection-for-ffa/>

## Repairs at Birchall Road site

After the vandalism that plagued our Birchall Road site earlier in the year, we are pleased that a new noticeboard has now been erected to replace the one that was vandalised. Also the other damage has been removed and we have had no recent recurrence of the problems. However, tenants are asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to their Field Reps or the Police.

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

## Padlock problems?

Have you been having problems with padlocks on the Golden Hill site? Some of the recent problems can be solved by following advice below:

- a. Cannot open padlock – remember to line up the correct padlock code (8595) on the central line. Then push the hasp down until it springs loose.
- b. Cannot lock padlock – the original instructions are to roll the numbers on the padlock *before* closing the hasp together. If this does not work on the padlock, then you should roll the number *after* closing the hasp.
- c. Padlock left open unlocked or showing the code – please ensure that when you close the gate you lock the padlock and test that it has properly locked by pushing the spring-loaded hasp to check.
- d. If you have any other problems with the padlock, please let your Field Rep know or contact Pete Clee, Site Rep. See below for Contact details

## H&DAA 2023 AGM

The Association's Annual General Meeting was successfully held at St Bonaventure's Hall on 19th April 2023. This year's event was different in that we held open discussions about two main topics:

- Financial Strategy
- Waste disposal/removal

The general consensus was that this new format was a success and we will aim to continue it next year.

The draft minutes of the meeting can be found at:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AGM-Minutes-2023-draft-3.pdf>

## Rubbish disposal at Grahams



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At our AGM in May this year, we had an interesting discussion about how to dispose of waste materials on our allotment sites. While it is the responsibility of individual members to dispose of anything that cannot be composted, we recognise that some help might be required from time to time with the disposal of bulky items left on a plot. At Graham's Field (aka Wessex Avenue) the field reps recently organised a major collection of rubbish that had accumulated over time: this included broken sheds, glass, metal, etc. This cost H&DAA £1450 for a commercial waste company to collect and remove all the accumulated rubbish.

## **Wood waste disposal**

As part of the waste disposal discussions (see above) it has become clear that many people want to reduce the use of bonfires. To this end, the hedging team, who produce a lot of waste woody material each year, have piloted the use of a professional tree surgeon to run a chipping session. The results have been promising and it is hoped that this will continue for future years. The Committee is also considering purchasing a robust chipper/shredder and running sessions where allotment members can bring their woody waste to be shredded.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/3030/>

## **Walkway repairs at Golden Hill**

In the early summer a group of volunteers helped repair the wooden walkway which goes between the Monk Road car park and the Community Garden entrance.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/walkway-repairs-at-golden-hill/>

## **Rats on the allotment**

Rats can be a problem on allotments, although they are not actually spotted very often. At Birchall Road evidence of rats was seen in a plotholder's shed. Read some tips on how to prevent rats invading your plot.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/rats-on-allotments/>

## **Hydrology study**

A student from UWE, under the supervision of a Research Associate from the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, has been conducting a study at our Golden Hill site. They have been measuring the depth of the clay layer across the site, and trying to assess its permeability to water. The full results from this study are still awaited.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/hydrology-study-at-golden-hill/>

## **Update on Balehouse Fire**

Most of you will know that in May 2023, the Balehouse at Golden Hill, which is extensively used by the Community Garden, caught fire resulting in extensive damage to the electrical system and more damage to the straw bale walls and ceiling. Fortunately, our insurance policy covers us for fire damage. We are awaiting building quotes before reconstruction can start, but the Balehouse is now available for limited use.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/fire-at-the-balehouse/>

## **Vacancy for H&DAA Secretary**

Debbie, our long-standing Secretary, is standing down from her role on the Committee in September. We have been looking for a replacement and hope to be able to make an announcement sometime in September/October.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/vacancy-for-secretary-on-our-committee/>

## Apple Day at HOCO

The Annual Apple Day is being held by Horfield Organic Community Orchard (HOCO) at their site on Golden Hill on 20<sup>th</sup> October. For more information visit: <https://www.community-orchard.org.uk/>

## H&DAA Facebook group

If you are not aware already, there is a Facebook group dedicated to the H&DAA membership. Here you will find interesting snippets of information posted by other members across our three allotment sites. To request to join this group go to:

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

## Allotment Supplies

Don't forget to look at the H&DAA website pages for suppliers of all types of items you require for your allotment plot. This includes, compost, manure, seeds and many other items. H&DAA does not have a shop ourselves, but the Ashley Down Store is close by, and we also list many other local suppliers.

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

## 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/>

The plot numbers for Field Reps 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	



# Horfield & District Allotments Association

Telecoms 15	Helen McCreadie		18,18a,19a	Steve Soffe	
Highbury 29a	Jamie Darke		2	Sarah Newns	

## Useful email addresses

Name	Email	Name	Email
Neil Pirie - Chair	chair@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk	Phil Hopkins – Treasurer	treasurer@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk
Debbie Bradley – Secretary (to Sept 2023 only)	secretary@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk	Steve Soffe- Plot manager	info@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk
Pete Clee – Golden Hill Site Rep	siteRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk	Phil Hopkins – Website Manager	info@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk

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)

The H&DAA Team