



# Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

## Chairman's Corner

This is the last newsletter with contributions for me as I have decided not to stand for re-election at the AGM next month. I have enjoyed many years as Chairman or Vice Chairman, but I believe the time is now for me to leave. I am keeping my own plot, the Growing in Gosport Project and will run the new Manor Way store when it is ready. **Jim More – Chairman**

## New Manor Way Allotments Update

The creation of the allotment site is in progress, and we understand the first plots will be let in April. There have been some delays in getting works completed due to the prolonged wet weather and this delay has impacted the internal road/track and creating the base for the new Allotment Store.

The Council will work through the Lee-on-the-Solent waiting list to find 66 people who are waiting for a plot and when the plots are all allocated a new Manor Way waiting list will be created. All being well with the weather, the new allotment store, partly funded by the Council and Allotment Association, will be on built on site in the first week of May. Initially, the new store will be run by Jim More however we are looking for a Manor Way plot holder to pick up the reins. If you are interested in operating this store for the benefit of Association members, please get in touch at [enquiries@gosportallotments.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gosportallotments.co.uk) If it wasn't not for the efforts of the Association Chairman to secure funding for this new allotment site, it would have been unlikely we would be getting the first new land allocated as allotments in Gosport for over 50 years.

## Growing in Gosport

We have another keen group of "Apprentices" who are cracking on with sowing and growing (as best we can be due to weather conditions). We are working more closely with the Gosport Food Network who have gifted 12 bags of peat free compost and in return we will provide plants for their "plant and share event" on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 12 noon at the Privett Cricket Pavilion. We will, of course, provide plants to the Association Plant Sale at Brockhurst Allotment Site. You will appreciate that producing a large number of plants uses up a lot of pots and cell trays. So, when you have finished getting your plants from wherever will you please consider donating the empty pots to the Growing in Gosport Project, so we can use them again for next year. Preferred 3"/7cm or 4"/10cm round and square and 6/9 cell trays. Thanks.



# Association Update

## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
7pm

Nimrod Community Centre.  
17, Falcon Medows Way,  
PO13 8AA

(This is a new Venue)

The Committee looks forward to meeting Association Members on the evening.



## Newsletter Home Deliveries

We would like to inform members, that this will be the last newsletter that will be hand delivered or posted to members' homes. As an Association we are trying to move to a greener and more sustainable method of communicating to our members so, we are encouraging our members, to have the newsletter sent to them via email, if you don't have access to email, you can pick up a printed newsletter from your local allotment store. If you would like an email copy, please send your email address along with your name to [enquiries@gosportallotments.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gosportallotments.co.uk)  
The Committee would like to say a very **BIG THANK YOU** to all the members who have been hand delivering our newsletters over many years and for using their own personal vehicles, it has been very much appreciated.

## Would you like to join our committee?

Two role opportunities have arisen on the Associations Committee. If any members are interested in volunteering for any of these roles, then please show your interest at any of the allotment stores or sent your interest to :- [enquiries@gosportallotments.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gosportallotments.co.uk)

We are a friendly bunch! And are always happy to welcome new members to the Committee. We meet once a month for a committee meeting, where we discuss upcoming events and activities that are run by the committee and all business concerning the 11 allotment sites in Gosport. The two roles that have become vacant are detailed below: -

### Treasurer

Our Association Treasurer Val is stepping down after 22 years of managing our finances, and we'd like to thank Val for all her time and dedication. Ideally, we are looking for someone who has access to a computer to keep our accounts on spreadsheets. Access to the internet to use our online banking application for creation and authorisation of payments. Also, to attend monthly committee meetings and to provide finance updates.

### Honorary Secretary & Public Relations

This is a creative role, which includes producing the quarterly members newsletters, like this one and the design of the posters that the Association display at the allotment sites to market and advertise the events and activities organised by the Committee. So, if this sounds like an ideal role for you, then please get in touch!



# Tips from the Potting Shed

Although the sun has begun to shine and soil is warming up, don't be tempted to put tender veggies outside, yet. There is an old south Hampshire adage "don't plant out your beans until after Wickham Horse Fair which takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> May each year. This is because there is always the chance for a late frost.

The same goes for squashes (e.g Butternut or Pumpkin) and cucumbers as their stems are too soft. You can sow under cover or indoors to get the plants started – just keep them inside for a bit longer."

Most of us, if we're truthful, don't have a compost heap. We have a pile of dead weeds and green waste that eventually rots down.

The problem with this is that any perennial weeds like dock, dandelions and bindweed come back from the dead, happily growing away in the pile.

The simple answer is to drown them. Just put them into a bucket or barrel of water for six weeks. The mush goes onto the heap and the liquid can be treated as a weak liquid feed.

Thank you to our members for these tips! 😊

## Little Reminders



**🔥 No Bonfires Please 🔥**

The last day for bonfires was 31<sup>st</sup> March on all sites.

### Membership Subscriptions

To continue to reap the many benefits of being an **Association Member**, please make sure you renew your 2024 membership subscription before the **end of April**. Lapsed Members will not receive newsletter, which informs you of the offers and discounts on King Seeds, potato seeds, purchases from the on-site stores, events, and activities that the Association has to offer.

**Yearly Membership only costs £5 for a single Member or £6 for two.**



### Keeping in Touch!

Keep in touch with the Association by "Liking us" on Facebook, where you can get lots of information about your local site, the Association's news about trips, talks and activities, you can also share your achievements and top tips! Which we love to read...

**For pages search: Gosport Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association, Elson Allotments, Rectory Allotments, Middlecroft Allotments or Brockhurst Allotments or "like" all pages!**

**Join in its great fun!**





# Dates for the Diary

## Trip to Visit Bosham Open Gardens Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June

This biennial event offers a rare opportunity to visit the many private gardens in the picturesque village of Bosham, which has the beautiful setting on the edge of Chichester Harbour.

The cost is £20 per person including transport.

Please complete the booking form and pay at your local Allotment Store by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

# PLANT SALE

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 10am

**At the Brockhurst Allotment Site, Military Road.**

**The sale will include fruit, veg & flower plants.**

**Donations of plants for the sale are most welcome on the day.**

