

LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER 2020



photo by
Andrea Laux

Lockdown gave us the opportunity to enjoy
the wildlife and flowers on our allotments



“NEW NORMAL” AGM

Your Committee, working tirelessly on your behalf, has decided that there is no way we can hold an AGM this year in any form similar to those of previous years, and so it will be an email AGM. The date of the AGM would have been Wednesday, 7 October, and we are going to stick with that date.

You are now asked to do the following by 20 September:

- Nominate yourself or others for any of the great Offices of State - Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary*
- Let Nancy know if you have any proposals for amendments to the Bylaws or Constitution, or have any general issues you want raised for discussion.
- a copy of last year's AGM minutes is attached to jog your memory.
- send all these to nancylkorman@hotmail.co.uk

You will receive a notice by email about the AGM by the 23rd September at the latest. It will include the Chair's report; the

Treasurer's report and accounts; a voting list for those nominated for the Officer positions - Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary; any proposals for changes to the Constitution, Bylaws or other important matters and any necessary voting forms; and, a form for payment of membership and plot rental fees.

You will be asked to reply by the 7th of October with votes for officers, payments for fees, votes on proposals for amendments and issues to be raised. Within a few days, you will then receive an AGM newsletter giving the outcomes of the votes and the list of Best /Most Improved /Most Productive Plot winners. After the 7th, if you have not paid by then, you will be required to include a late payment fee with your payment.

REFLECTIONS ON LOCKDOWN

Susan Kay,
Aden Terrace

It came as a relief that we were allowed to go to our allotments by way of exercise. The pleasure of an outdoor escape which was safe - was so precious - while noticing Clissold Park crowded with picnickers & joggers!!

Far more people were attending to their plots than I can ever remember! I did see eight people at once one weekday!

The weather has been so unrelentingly sunny & hot, rain when it came was either torrential or lashing around our just emerging seedlings.

Most people previously came at weekends, as working full-time limits the free time & daylight to work their plot. The furloughing of workers made a huge difference to people's behaviour - a place for peace or even chance for a break from their added burden of home-educating children.

Some were caught out & crying out for seeds, when suppliers had run out. Seed(ing) swaps were the answer - we always over-compensate & plant too many seeds! I forget how many tomato types I've shared or passed on!! Good to help out when others were caught short.

The standard of plots has certainly risen given the circumstances! Why stay at home with no garden if you can sit outdoors with a snack between bouts of weeding, planting, getting spuds in?!



*clockwise from
top left: cluster of
alliums, Hollyhock,
Jersey garden
moth, Susan
Kay; novel soap
dispenser at
Church Walk, Annie
Wilson*





pictures by Chris, Aden Terrace

LOCKDOWN STORIES

Tim Maby,
Aden Terrace

I have to admit that the lockdown has been wonderful for my allotment. In fact our whole site in Aden Terrace has never looked so well since I took over my first plot in 1983. Of course, for those of us who are retired the lockdown has simply restricted our range of travel, and the allotments became our centre of social life. Beyond that it gave me the chance to do what I planned through all those years of struggle to keep the plot going while working, bringing up children and renovating two successive homes.

Now at last I have been able to cultivate the whole plot and even organise intelligent successional planting. In June winter planted onions gave way to Calabrese broccoli.

Incidentally a fresh-picked onion is much sweeter than a dried one. I was in time with spuds to dig my first earlies in the beginning of July [Casablanca], second earlies began in August [Red King Edwards].

“It is so nice to have a chat as people pass by”.

During the first couple of months even the many workers on our plots were able to come during the day and we got to know each other much better. It is so nice to have a chat as people pass by. My neighbour Anna Dixon also spent time in her home at the park end of the site finishing her new book on Ageing Better and how we should

organise society better – see her on Youtube. I am now a keen supporter.

My neighbour the other side is Chris, best -known for his beautiful salad-jewelled troughs and the shed that has been much photographed as a work of art. During this summer he has developed the Chris Coe Talking Chair, where selected friends come to sit by his shed for hours at a time. He and I have found a strong connection we both have with North Wales. He worked on an estate farm near Portmadoc for two years when he was wandering youngster. I have been spending the last three years on my final renovation project – the old family home on the Portmeirion peninsula.

And that’s where I am off now to carry on lime-washing five hundred year old walls.

LOCKDOWN MOMENT

A place to read

Annie Wilson



Pictures of my daughter and friends helping on the allotment (their wheelbarrow technique leaves a lot to be desired!) as they are on furlough and have time and are bored enough! They never come usually.

LOCKDOWN MOMENTS

Andrea Sinclair,
Spring Hill

Here is a photo of some strange little way of keeping squirrels off with forks.



Rep Sylvia clearing a forgotten corner as she has had more time to get to the allotment.



We are trying out pumpkin tripods for the first time this year - so far successfully. They are taking up much less space than usual and using strong poles we are suspending our heavier squash in cobbled together slings, made out of fleece.



This variety of squash is our favourite, Marina di Choggia, very fine flavoured and good keepers, up to 6 months, but they do get big, so important to support them.

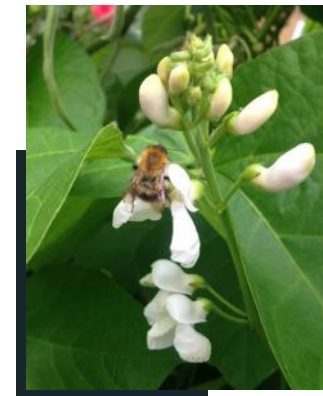
We are also growing smaller orange Hokkaido squash which are ca. 1kg and don't need to be supported.





Springdale
during lockdown

Anna Newman



LOCKDOWN STORIES

Sarah Kissack,
Aden Terrace

One of my neighbours had offered to look after the school pet rabbit for the weekend, and ended up with it for lockdown. Every week I collect the rabbit litter and take to the allotment for nutritious mulching - here are my appreciative courgettes! Mulching or composting any litter from vegetarian pets is great for the garden/allotment and reduces waste sent for incineration so if you discover any such pet owners please do ask if they'll be part of this win win situation.

Mulching can not only provide nutrition and conserve water, but also enable plants to survive through the winter. I'd noticed a few runner bean plants returning for the last couple of years, so left the frame and dead foliage of 2019 crop up over last winter with good mulch of woodchip, then cut down dead foliage and tidied up frame after risk of frost over in April, and have ended up with enough plants returning to fill whole frame and provide early cropping with plenty of nectar for bees!



A link to a film that was shown on London Live and features some footage of me at Aden Terrace:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6azTOXZUihI&feature=youtu.be





photos by
Sylvia Cummins

LOCKDOWN MOMENT

Weaving

Annie Wilson



It was such a beautiful and peaceful spring and I felt so lucky to have the allotment to go to. Watching the seeds grow, always exciting, seemed this year to have a special hopefulness.



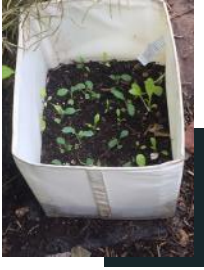
The sunflowers, different colours on the packet, all came out yellow but they thrived and the bees looked blissed out rolling about in the huge soft mattresses of nectar.

LOCKDOWN MOMENTS

Bron Jones,
Aden Terrace

I had to learn a few new skills and wanting an extra raised salad tray I set to making one and was pretty proud of my efforts. Apparently I only need half the number of screws used but I built it to last! The lettuces appreciated it and have been fantastic.





*Using found objects
for seed trays*

GROWING GARLIC

Annie Wilson,
Springdale Road

For the last two years I've had a bumper crop of garlic after years of producing miserable specimens that were barely bigger than the cloves I planted out.

My success I think is due to several factors:

1. Buying the seed garlic from a grower instead of using ordinary shop bought garlic. Last year I bought the garlic heads from The Garlic Farm, The Isle of Wight who do a mail order service. I chose Caulk White, *allium sativum* ophioscorodon, originating in Eastern Europe ,it's a hard neck variety that is planted in Autumn and harvested in June.
2. Using raised beds rather than open ground ensured the soil was free draining and the garlic got more sunlight. Plant garlic in an area that will receive maximum sunlight hours. Garlic can also be grown in pots- plant 3 cloves to a 6"pot or 6 to a 8" pot.
3. The hot sunny springs for the past two years have been perfect for garlic growing. Garlic needs watering regularly during dry periods but watering should stop completely during the last few weeks so growing conditions have been perfect this year.



Asparagus Pea

My experimental crop this year was Asparagus pea. I bought the packet several years ago and because of the seed shortage decided to give it a go.

The peas germinated very easily indoors and I planted them out in early May. They have a bushy habit and need supporting or they will sprawl over the ground.

They are an attractive plant and have lovely deep red flowers that become strange winged pods. These are cooked like peas but its important to pick the pods when they are 1in long , because although they have something of the taste of asparagus, the centre can become very stringy and inedible. Unlike the peas I grew they keep on flowering and I've had a steady harvest of pods.

Would I grow them again? Probably not, as they are definitely an acquired taste and have nothing like the sweetness of garden peas.



LOCKDOWN MOMENT

On Springhill

Joss Bany

UNKNOWN PLANTS Q&A

Sue Fairbrother, Aden Terrace

Q: I planted some seeds a few weeks ago and wrote the name of the plant on a plastic label which I put in the earth. I used all the seeds in the packet so don't have it any more. Unfortunately the rain washed the name of the plant away and now I don't know what this is. They have grown remarkably big, and quickly. Do you know what they are?

(I use waterproof pens on my labels now!)



Q: And this picture is of plants that happen to be planted next to the 'unknown plants', and I do know what these are. The seeds were bought in Holland and they are much enjoyed by the Dutch as traditional Dutch veggies.

They look like spinach or chard, but they are not. Any suggestions as to what they could be?



A: THE LEAVES OF YOUR mystery plant look like a type of pumpkin or squash - a photo of the leaves of a zimbabwean pumpkin that I am growing look remarkably similar, it will be interesting to see what the fruit is like.

The Dutch plants might be a type of endive very popular in The Netherlands called Escarole endive, it's one of the ingredients of Foeksandijvie stampot, a mixture of mashed potato and endive, like our bubble and squeak.

A.W.

PLEASE
be sensible and think of
others when going to
your allotment:

Wear gloves or apply hand
sanitiser before and after touching
ANY hard surfaces: ie padlock, chain,
fence rails, watering cans and taps.

Covid19 can stay on metal,
glass & plastic for as long as 9 days.

HAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR

Penny Miller - pmsrink@yahoo.com

VICE CHAIR

Ruth Gladwin

SECRETARY

Nancy Korman -
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TREASURER

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SITE REPRESENTATIVES

ADEN TERRACE

Sue Sharples

CHURCH WALK

John Clarke and Sarah Madge

LEASIDE ROAD

Jack Eldon and Guy Dehn

OVERBURY STREET

Julia Clarke

QUEENSBRIDGE ROAD

Phillip Turner

SPRING HILL

Jon Fuller, Kay Kante, Andrea Sinclair
and Sylvia Cummins

SPRING LANE

Helen Bishop and Elsa Hamaz

SPRINGDALE ROAD

Annie Wilson

ST KILDA'S ROAD

Henrietta Soames
