

Somersham and District Allotment and Smallholding Association July 2017 Newsletter



Hello Everyone! Thank you so much for the excellent feedback for the first newsletter last month, fingers crossed that good run continues! Please let me know if you have any items for future newsletters – **Vicky Moseley, Secretary**

Carnival



Thank you all so much for your contributions and support of the carnival stall. We raised £370.64

The Committee would like to say a big thank you to the few members who helped by donating produce, cakes and their time to make sure that the stall was a success – you know who you are! Donations were down on the last few years which was disappointing. As you know, without the donations and hours put in by volunteers we would not be able to raise as much.

Site Security

Please can I remind you that gates should be closed and locked behind you every time you enter or exit the site. Even if you know there are still other people on site they should have their keys with them so please don't worry about locking anyone in. It might seem like a pain, but it is pointless having gates in place if they are never closed or locked.

I would also like to remind you that even if you attend the site as a pedestrian you should still use the gates rather than climbing over, and potentially damaging, other allotment holder's fences.



Shooting

We have received reports that rifle casings have been found on some plots. Shooting is not permitted on allotment land under any circumstances unless you have the express written permission of the Committee. If you are concerned about pest control in your area please let myself, or your site co-ordinator know. The calibre of the casings found has caused concern to the committee and we will be monitoring the situation closely. We are taking this matter very seriously and action will be taken against anyone found to be shooting on allotment land.

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MyHarvest

A research team at the University of Sheffield are working with members of the public growing food in allotments, gardens and other own-growing spaces across the UK to understand the yield of typical UK staple fruit and vegetable crops

By providing the team with the area of land you use to grow a crop and the weight of the crop you harvest you would be:

1. Contributing to a first national estimate of own-grown food production in the 21st century.
2. Helping us to understand how much allotment and garden space we need in the future to ensure sufficient access for the growing number of people living in our cities and towns.

You can sign up online at myharvest.org.uk



Allotment Gardening as Exercise

Did you know that recent studies have shown that Just 30 minutes a week spent pottering on the vegetable patch can boost feelings of both self-esteem and mood by dissolving tension, depression, anger, and confusion, a study found.

As an added bonus, those who have an allotment also tend to be in better physical shape than their less green-fingered counterparts, with a significantly lower body mass index. All the more reason to get digging!

Seed Parcel

Please can I ask your assistance in tracking down the seed pass-the-parcel? This great initiative was started by Iris Bell as a way to get rid of seeds you don't need, enabling you to swap them for seeds that you do want. The parcel hasn't been seen in some time, and we are concerned that not everyone is going to see the benefit of it. We also have more seeds to add to the parcel so I would be grateful if you could let me know if you have had it, and who you passed it on to to see if we can track it down!

Don't forget:

- **National Allotment Week** runs from 14th – 20th August
- **Pumpkin Stall** – October 21st – Somersham Cross
- **Update your details** – if you have moved house, or think we don't have an e-mail address for you please contact Vicky Moseley.

We have a few allotments of various sizes available so if you know of someone who has always wanted to try their hand at allotment gardening, or if you want to expand your plot please contact me, or your site co-ordinator,

Best wishes

The Allotment Committee