

March 2019 Newsletter



Hi All, it looks like Spring has finally sprung with daffodils and blossom out across the site. I hope you have all made a great start to the growing season!

Vicky Moseley, Secretary

Committee Changes

Now that the committee has settled and got to know each other we have had a vote to elect a Chairman for the year. Andy Bell was proposed by Greg Wyss, seconded by Clive Phillips and voted in. Andy is focussed on improving the site's links with other village groups and building up the community feeling on site so I hope you will join me in wishing him all the best in his new role.

Community Hub

I am sure that you will all have seen that we have moved one of the association's containers from the far end of King Street to near the gate. We are hoping to create a community hub that can be used by all members to socialise, and it will also continue to be used to store compost etc. We will have set opening hours to begin with – a couple of hours on a weekend morning – but we can assess how popular it is and change the hours to suit.

We have great plans for it but we will need some volunteers to help make it all come together. Leesa Bolton and I would like to invite you all to a meeting on **Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm** in the Rose & Crown, Somersham to discuss our ideas and get things rolling! If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to be involved or have some ideas please let me know.

Toilets

Further to the item in the last newsletter, we received just one objection to getting rid of the toilets. After further discussion in the committee meetings it has been decided to lose the Chapel Fields toilet, and to retain the King Street toilet. The King Street toilet will be moved to behind the "Community Hub", where it can be screened off for greater privacy and will be cleaned more regularly but only during the busier time on site over the spring/summer months.

Somersham & District Smallholding & Allotment Association
www.somersham-allotments.co.uk

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Accounts

We have received a telephone call from the Financial Conduct Authority who oversee associations such as ours. It seems they have not received accounts for 2016 or 2017 from the treasurer or accountant. This is a breach of the code of conduct we are bound by and potentially is an offence that could attract a large fine. The Committee are preparing the necessary paperwork now to avoid any fines or sanctions against the society.

New Plotolders

We have two recent additions, Kay Baldock and Michelle Wallace, both on King Street. They have made good starts, and I am sure you will all make them feel welcome and help them with any questions they have.

With only 6 plots available across the site we are at 97% occupancy which is an amazing figure. I am working hard to promote the site across the village and it would be great if we could hit 100% this year.

Carnival

Carnival is on 15th June again this year and the theme is Uniforms. We would like volunteers who can help on the day and/or donate produce to make the stall a success. It is our intention to have an Association BBQ to christen the new Community Hub so all funds raised will go into this and maintaining the toilet.

Compost

70ltr bags of Mother Earth compost are available to purchase at £4 a bag. If you would like some please let me know, or see Sabine – who has the key for the container.

Logo

The Committee would like to design a logo to be used on the website, stationery and potentially promotional items such as bags. If you have any ideas please let Vicky know!

We have very 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.

Best wishes,

The Allotment Committee