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Newsletter AGM 2018

Dear Member,

The days are getting longer, the clocks have gone forward – that can only mean one thing – it's time for the Annual General Meeting which will take place at:

HEDCA, Coombe Road, Gosport

on 28 April 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

The recent icy cold weather and now wet weather together with low light levels has not been ideal for setting seeds in the greenhouse or getting early crops in the ground. But there are welcome signs of Spring - maybe it's a slow start, or perhaps I am impatient! Whatever the weather I hope you have a successful growing season.

We have learned from the Council that the land at Manor Way in Lee-on-the-Solent that they previously said was going to be designated as allotments, is now to be subject to a community survey. Local residents will therefore have a say in how the space is to be used. The Council have undertaken not to spend any of the money they allocated to treat knotweed on that land until it's future use is decided but they will carry out the knotweed eradication at Camden.

Jim More

Chairman

Membership Renewal If you have not yet renewed Membership for 2018 then you must do so by 31 Mar 18 to continue to access the Stores and benefits that come with membership.

Failure to do so means you will not receive the early Autumn newsletter with details of discounted seeds/fruit plants/seed potatoes.



Bonfires

Please remember Bonfire season finished on all sites on 31 March.

RHS GARDEN REDUCED PRICE ENTRY CARD

For non-RHS Members we have a reduced price entry card which gives two people a 30% reduction on normal adult entry prices to all RHS gardens (except Wisley on Sundays).

The card is held at Brockhurst Store and you can book out a card in person or use the contact form on the website.

AGM Agenda

1. Opening and Introductions.
2. Minutes of AGM 2017.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Supply Officer's Report.
5. Registrar and Treasurer's Report and
 - Acceptance of Financial Statements for FY 2017.
 - Waiver of requirement for full Audit.
6. Update to members regarding the recent Options Assessment relating to devolved management of Council allotment sites (see separate article).
7. Increase Storepersons' Honorarium.
8. Wardens Reports (voluntarily given by any Wardens present).
9. The National Allotment Society – continuing our affiliation (see separate article).
10. Agenda Items submitted by Members.
11. Nominations and Election of Officers and Committee Members.
12. Meeting Close.

Notes from the Secretary about the AGM

1. All committee positions are up for re-election every year and they are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Member Registrar, Supply Officer, Show Co-ordinator, All Storemen, Rectory Site Manager, Webmaster/Newsletter Co-ordinator and Social/Events Secretary.

2. Any Member may stand for election to any committee position if they wish. If you intend to stand for election you must return a completed nomination form to arrive no later than 21 April 2018. Nomination forms are available from Stores or as a download from the website. Forms need to be sent to:

Secretary, GAH&GA, 57 Amberley Road, Gosport PO12 4EN, or can be completed, scanned and emailed to: gahaga.newsletter@ntlworld.com

3. Those standing for election should be present at the meeting unless extenuating circumstances prevent this and in which case you must discuss with the Secretary before the AGM. The Proposer and Secunder must be paid up members and at least one of them should be present at the meeting.

4. If you have any items that you would like to add to the Agenda please ensure they reach the Secretary by 21st April. You can use the "contact us" form on the website if you wish or email to gahaga.newsletter@ntlworld.com or write to the Secretary (address at paragraph 3).

Gosport Borough Council – Options Assessment for Management of Allotments

The Councillors on the Council Allotment Stakeholder Group have completed their Options Appraisal and the result is the Council will retain management of allotments. We were complimented on putting an excellent submission (copies available in Allotment Stores) but when they came to award the scores we did not get enough points. The Councillors were so keen to get it right that they re-scored the document a fortnight after their first assessment and we came off worse the second time.

So, the Councillors have done what they were asked to do and this time the process was open and transparent; but we failed to present a convincing case. A report will now go to the Community Board in Jun 2018 for final decision.

Further information will be given at the AGM and we look forward to hearing members views.

The National Allotment Society – continuing our affiliation

We have been affiliated to the NAS for a long time and £3 of your £6-member subscription goes towards our affiliation fee. For that we get the benefit of:

- a. The discounted seed scheme through Kings Seeds (we get our fruit and potatoes from other suppliers).
- b. Copies of the Allotment Magazine that we pass around the stores with some member discount offers
- c. Initial Legal advice when needed.
- d. New this year is free Personal Public Liability Insurance for you as an individual plotholder. We must “opt-in” as an Association to get this and we must provide your contact details – address/phone/email – to the Insurer. The insurance basically covers for you accidentally damaging another person’s property or someone claiming against you for an injury that occurred on your allotment.

Again we have further information to share at the AGM and would like to hear your views whether we continue to affiliate to the National Allotment Society.

ALLOTMENT COMPETITIONS

Gosport in Bloom - which has a section for Best Allotment. Entry forms are available from the Town Hall, online on the Council website and at Allotment Stores. Closing date for entries to the Town Hall is 9 May and judging will take place week commencing 2 Jun. It is usual for those who enter to be invited to the Awards evening later in the year hosted by the entertaining Fred Dinenage.

Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies – have a competition for plots of 10 rods and over and for 5 rods and under. We have had Winners and Runners Up in both categories in the last few years and encourage everyone to have a go. If you wish, the Association will pay the entry fee. Entry forms available at any Store, or download from the website. Please be sure to give your Storeman or Committee member the entry form at the latest 6 May 2018.

Gosport Allotment Association

Our own best allotment completion is so easy you do not have to enter. If you have a plot in Gosport (not Lee, sorry) then you are entered automatically, and this includes non-association members. We announce the winner for best Large and Small plots at the Summer Show.



Plant Sale



The Annual Plant sale will be held on **Sunday 13 May 2018** at the **Brockhurst store from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**. All donations of spare plants will be gratefully received by your friendly Storeman or on the day. Polite reminder – please do not attempt to buy items before 10.00am while the Committee are setting up.



Coach Trip – Sunday 8 July 2018. This year our day out will be to Houghton Lodge Garden at Stockbridge, stop in Hungerford for lunch (self funded) and then embark in a horse drawn barge trip on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Cost is £34 for coach/garden/barge. Details are on website and at stores. Still a few seats left..

Summer Show

Saturday 18 August 2018

At St Mary's Parish Centre, Alverstoke

Show Schedules will be available soon from Allotment Stores, on the website or from the Show Co-ordinator Steve on 02392587662.

We aim to have a variety of attractions in the garden again this – further details will be put on Allotment Noticeboards and the website.

SUMMER SHOW SPECIAL CATEGORY

This year's "plant-from-a-plug" will be a Regal Pelargonium. Delivery is expected mid-April so please check with your local store. Usual rules – you grow the plug plant in pot not more than 6" (15cm) in diameter, then bring along to the show (not forgetting the unique numbered plant label), plonk on the table in the garden before 1100. Do remember to take your plant home when we are done. Generally, you can only buy one plug per person, but why not buy one for a friend or family as a surprise gift.

Store News

Finally, remember the stores are stocked up ready for the growing season. Our prices for fertilisers is as good if not better than some supermarkets – large and small. And we have yet to find anyone who can beat us on quality or price for canes. Stores at Brockhurst, Elson, Rectory and Rowner are open Sundays from 10 am to 11 am (11.30 Brockhurst and Rowner). Camden opens the 2nd and 4th Sunday from 10 am to 11 am and Middlecroft on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.