

Dear Members

We hope this bulletin finds you safe and well.

*The government's roadmap to ease lockdown is now underway and we are approaching **Step 2** of the roadmap, which will take place no earlier than **Monday 12 April**, and will see the reopening of indoor leisure, outdoor attractions such as zoos and theme parks, libraries and community centres, personal care premises, all retail and outdoor hospitality.*

Steps 3 and 4

*Step 3 will take place no earlier than **Monday 17 May** and includes the reopening of indoor entertainment and attractions (e.g. museums, cinemas, and children's play areas) and any remaining outdoor entertainment such as outdoor theatres and cinemas. Indoor hospitality will resume – with a requirement to order, eat and drink while seated. There will also be an extension to the number of people who can gather outdoors, and some controlled large events will be permitted – with capacity limits in place.*

Throughout the process the government will apply the four tests that have been established in the decisions to ease lockdown

- *the vaccine being deployed successfully.*
- *evidence that the vaccine is reducing hospitalisations and deaths.*
- *infection rates do not surge putting unsustainable pressure on the NHS.*
- *the assessment is not changed by new variants of concern.*

*If the four tests as above are satisfied at each step, the Government is aiming to lift all restrictions on **Monday 21 June**.*

The AGA Executive Committee will continually review the restrictions and the regulations placed upon us on a month-by-month basis and as we receive information from the government but at present our current practices, policies and restrictions relating to access to the allotments, remain in place.

Be Safe and Keep Safe!

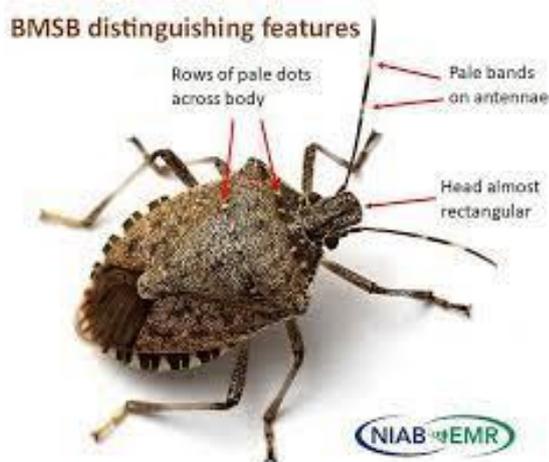
The AGA Executive Committee

Brown Stink Bug Threatens Our Garden's !

Gardeners are being urged to be on alert for the stink bug insect and other pests set to arrive in the UK.



The brown marmorated stink bug is very similar to many harmless native species, so check out the identifying marks before you squash everything similar!



The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)

has been spotted at three places in England so far, but experts are warning that it may become more widespread.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) said gardeners should be on their guard for the insect. It could appear alongside more familiar animals such as slugs, snails and the box tree caterpillar.

Although not a notifiable pest, reports of suspected outbreaks of brown marmorated stink bug would be appreciated by the relevant authority, to help monitor findings: For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector or the PHSI Headquarters, Sand Hutton, York. Tel: 01904 405138 Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk

For full details go to

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/halyomorpha-halys-defra-pest-factsheet-v3.pdf>

The Trading Hut

**Will be open for Collection Only of Pre Ordered Supplies on
Sunday 25th April 10.30am – 11.30am**

Supplies must be ordered in advance.

You must email your order to Adrian Ford at adrian_ford62@hotmail.com no later than the Friday before the Sunday opening. Adrian will prepare the order in advance, for your collection on the day, during the above opening times. Click here for the latest price list [April Price List](#) which you should use when ordering as a number of prices have changed since early March.

Payment can be made by advance bank transfer/electronic payment or by cheque (details further in this bulletin) or by cash paid on the day. Cheques should be made payable to Alsager Gardens Association and, if applicable, your Site and Plot Number should be written on the reverse of the cheque.

Collection of your order will be from the rear of the Hut.

As the government relax the Covid restrictions we will continue to review the Hut Opening arrangements and we will notify you of the ongoing opening times.

Payment of Allotment Rents and Subs

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their allotment rents and subs, this enables us to manage our cash flow accordingly. We have large payments at this time of year so your on-time payment is much appreciated.

To Anyone who has not paid

YOUR ALLOTMENT RENT AND SUBS are now overdue!

If you have not already paid your allotment rent, then an additional charge of £5 will now be added to your invoice. This payment is to cover the extra administrative time associated with tracking and requesting the late payment.



Do You Need to Pay us?

If you need to make a payment to us for

- allotment rent.*
- annual subs*
- manure supplied on site.*
- purchase of supplies from the Trading Hut*

Due to the ongoing pandemic, payment at the hut should preferably be made by bank transfer/electronic payment or cheque. This minimises contact with cash. This also means that our Treasurer does not have to make a journey to the Bank - the nearest branch being in Sandbach!

You can make a payment direct to our Bank Account as follows:

Alsager Gardens Association
Sort 60 01 12
Account 01020420

To help us identify your payment please remember to fill in the Reference Field- which has a maximum of 18 characters - as follows:

EXAMPLE

With A Williams as the Name and Cedar Ave as the Allotment Site and Plot number 30-1

- 1. For Allotment rent and Subs**
Your Allotment site + Plot number + Surname
Ced30-1Williams
- 2. For Manure on site**
CedManureAWilliams
- 3. For Trading Hut Payments**
TradingAWilliams
- 4. Subs**
SubsAWilliams

Please remember to also email.

davidpitt4@sky.com (until we notify you of transfer to Adrian ford)

with the details of your payment!



Quick - get yours now!
Its not too late to purchase your Seed Potatoes

There is still plenty of time to chit and plant your potatoes and we still have a few bags of seed potatoes available for purchase

We recognise that, as the trading hut is not open on a weekly basis, you may not have been able to buy your seed potatoes. Also we have several new members on our allotments that will not have been able to pre- order from Kings. We can deliver or arrange collections of the following potatoes and onions that are currently available for purchase.

<u>1st Earlies</u>		<u>Second Earlies</u>		<u>Main Crop</u>	
Arron Pilot	3 bags	Nadine	3 bags	Desiree	3 bags
Maris Bard	3 bags			Maris Piper	1 bag
				Sarpo Mira	1 bag
				Valor	1 bag
				King Edward	1 bag

Onions Also available

Stuttgart onions 1 bag Sturon Onions 2 bags Red Baron onions 3 bags

**If you wish to purchase any seed potatoes or onions, then please contact
The Trading Secretary – David Spall
by email at d.e.spall@btopenworld.com or by phone 01270 874117
to arrange delivery and payment.
But be quick – when they are gone, they’re gone!**

For information on Chitting your potatoes see bulletin No 11.
Click [BULLETIN-11-January-2021-News-and-Update-rev.pdf](#)

In bulletin 12 we directed you to the Huw Richards “You Tube” Video on an alternative way to plant potatoes. I have now sorted out the bed I am going to use to try this out and my Hay is on order for tomorrow when I will plant my main crop potatoes. If you haven’t already viewed this or want to see this again then click on [“Growing potatoes the lazy way”](#)

EVENTS THIS YEAR

“Covid Permitting”

The government has issued its roadmap to take us out of lockdown, but there remains uncertainty about what events we will be able to hold.

- We still hope to hold a Plant Day but will not know until May if this will be possible.
- In May we will review if we can go ahead with the Annual Gardens and Allotment competition.
- We hope to hold our Annual Show on Saturday 4th September 2pm at The Civic.

In the meantime please remember to plant a few extra of your flower and vegetable seeds so that you can pass them onto us for the Seed and Plant Sale as soon as we are able to do so. Without you our events will not be possible.



Need to Contact Us?

Should you have any issues or if you are not able to attend to your allotment plot for an extended time, then please contact your site manager in writing as follows:

- Cedar Avenue Mike Hubbard 07979 968932 mrh712@live.co.uk
- Coronation Ave Mike Smith 877265 michael.smith619@btinternet.com
- Talke Road John Nixon 873445 nicojnixon12@talktalk.net
- Lawton Road Adrian Ford 877363 or 07976 978976 adrian_ford62@hotmail.com

or email the Secretary at alsagergardensassociationsecretary@outlook.com

Association News

David Pitt stood down after 38 years as our AGA Treasurer!



David Pitt (right) with David Spall at the 2017 Annual Show

I am sure that all members will want to join us in thanking David for his many years' service and for keeping the AGA in a sound financial position.

David was a keen allotmenteer and gave up his allotment at Cedar Avenue a few years ago. Despite this remained in the role of Treasurer which has included regular stints at the Trading Hut and a range of activities associated with the Annual Show. All of this has been in addition to the very many, day-to-day, income and expenditure tasks!

David has told us he intends to remain involved with the AGA and we will still have access to David and his extensive knowledge. He is currently working to provide our "incoming" Treasurer, Adrian Ford, with a general overview and handover of the finances and the accounts.

Our AGM took place on Tuesday 9th March at 8pm

Click here for the [Draft Minutes of AGM held on 9 March 2021](#)

The following officers were appointed at the AGM.

President Derek Hough
Chairman Adrian Ford
Vice Chair Pauline Hubbard
Treasurer Adrian Ford
Secretary Pauline Hubbard
Trading Secretary David Spall
Membership Secretary Hilary Robinson
Show Secretary Vacant

Whatever your skill set there is a place for you on the AGA Committee and you would be very welcomed.

***If you would like to join the committee
you can self-nominate by sending your details to the secretary at
alsagergardensassociationsecretary@outlook.com***