

Be Safe – Keep Safe!

Dear Members

We hope this bulletin finds you safe and well.

Highlights this month are:

- *Our virtual AGM will be held by ZOOM on Tuesday 9th March at 8pm*
- *We are planning to open the Trading Hut on a restricted basis, as we did last year, subject to government regulations and NAS advice.*
- *We hope to be able to hold a “Plant Sale” in mid-May – COVID restrictions permitting.*

Details of the AGM, the Trading Hut opening times, how to purchase supplies, pay your annual allotment rental and your AGA subs are detailed further on in this bulletin.

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.

In the meantime we will continue to send out these regular bulletins to update members of any changes that we are able to make as and when they happen.

Be Safe and Keep Safe!

The AGA Executive Committee

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

Time to ban neonicotinoids for good!

Neonicotinoid pesticides have once again made the headlines following a [decision](#) by the Government to allow the emergency use of the neonicotinoid thiamethoxam on sugar beet in England in 2021.

*Defra has granted farmers in England the temporary right to use the insecticide thiamethoxam for a 120-day period to combat a virus in sugar beet. **This pesticide is proven to be harmful to butterflies and bees** which are vital pollinators and already suffering population decline.*

Will You help to save them and Sign the Petition?

If you want to act to reverse this decision, then go to [Continue the ban on the use of Neonicotinoids - Petitions \(parliament.uk\)](#)

and please sign the petition.

Petition

Continue the ban on the use of Neonicotinoids

The EU placed a ban on the use of Neonicotinoids due to the adverse effect it has on bees and other pollinators. As the UK has left the EU, Government should uphold these restrictions in order to protect natural pollinators.

[▶ More details](#)

Sign this petition

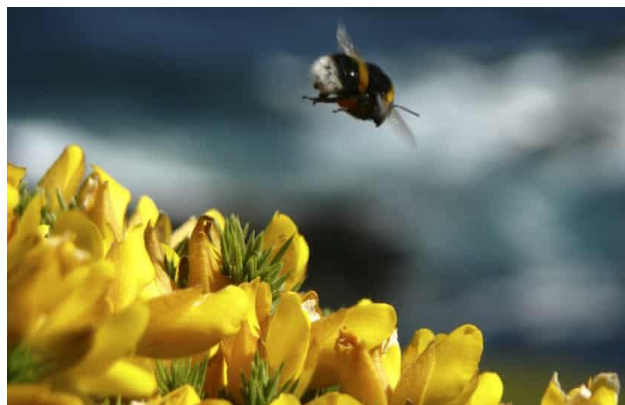
88,111 signatures

At 100,000 signatures...

At 100,000 signatures, this petition will be considered for debate in Parliament.

Deadline 11 July 2021

For more Information and details please see <https://butterfly-conservation.org/news-and-blog/time-to-ban-neonicotinoids-for-good>



Meet Huw Richards

- Author and YouTube Sensation -

- Author of The UK Top grossing Gardening Book of 2019
- One of the most popular British gardeners on the internet having created over 400 videos.
- He films his videos from his family's smallholding in Wales giving complete gardening processes and hints and tips for the more experienced gardeners.



Now I don't really do "You Tube" and I have only used it on occasions to find out how to do something that isn't in the instruction manual (or to find the instruction manual!!!). So for example most recently I successfully searched **You Tube** to find out how to remove the front of my complicated Fridge Freezer drawer front in order to clean it!

So at a recent committee meeting when I asked those present had they any items to share for this bulletin, one member kindly pointed me in the direction of **Huw Richards, Author and You Tube Sensation** who has provided lots of useful and interesting information hints and tips on gardening and allotmenting.

I have checked out a couple of the videos and they are indeed useful both for beginners or experienced gardeners. His approach and manner is easy and there are interesting and useful hints and tips. Given that we are still in lock down I thought you might find this a useful and easy source of information particularly as we approach the growing season.

His most popular videos have been seen by over one million people and he has over 120,000 subscribers. He has also presented a two-minute slot on ITV's Wales Coast and Country providing seasonal gardening advice.

Basically he makes gardening as easy as possible. I watched these two videos which are some of his most popular "[Growing potatoes the lazy way](#)" and "[Ten terrific tomato growing tips](#)".

You will all have an opinion about his suggested method for growing potatoes, but I am going to give it a try. In his tomatoes video he is so, so young, but the information provided and his presentation is excellent. For me? I will definitely be using his Basil tip this year!

This link will take you to his you tube site <https://www.youtube.com/c/HuwRichards/videos>

The National Allotment Society

The AGM

Subject to government guidelines around large gatherings, all planned activities for the AGM 2020, 90th Year celebration will take place in Marks Tey, Essex on the 12th of June 2021. It will be either a Hybrid or virtual meeting.

Got a gardening question? Ask the NAS horticultural expert.

The NAS are pleased to be able to tell us that they have a new Horticultural Advisor to answer questions.



Aaron Hickman is Head Gardener at a large private estate in Yorkshire. Aaron also works as a stand in 'gardening expert' of BBC Radio Leeds, gives private talks and lectures and advises members of the public at the Harrogate Flower Shows. Aaron has a special interest and fascination with the tools, techniques and tenacity of the Victorian and Edwardian gardens and gardeners, with a deep interest in the running of traditional walled kitchen gardens.

Send in your queries to natsoc@nsalg.org.uk and the NAS will forward them to Aaron.

Allotmenters Liability Insurance

This benefit has been created via an insurance policy purchased by the NAS to give liability cover to member plot holders and leisure gardeners.

We are delighted to confirm that the National Allotment Society (NAS) has renewed the Insurance benefit for a further year and has increased the cover and benefits offered within the policy. The benefit is offered to Societies/Associations, Individuals and Life members.

The benefit forms part of the subscription that you pay to the AGA. In order to be added to the policy members must provide full member contact details, including email details, and we must keep those details up to date and pass them to the NAS.

The Trading Hut will be open for Collection Only of Pre Ordered Supplies

on

Sunday 7th March 10am - 12pm

Sunday 14th March 10am - 12pm

Sunday 28th March 10.30am – 11.30am

Supplies

These **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.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, payment at the hut should preferably be made by advance bank transfer/electronic payment or by cheque (details further in this bulletin). Where this is not possible payments cash must be placed in an envelope with your name and the amount on the reverse of the envelope and handed in at the time of collection. 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.

ALLOTMENT RENT AND SUBS

As above, we are encouraging all payments to be made electronically. However, if you are unable to pay by direct bank payment you may hand in your allotment rent and subs payment at the Trading Hut during the above times. Payments by cash must be placed in an envelope with your name, the amount and site/plot number (if applicable) on the reverse of the envelope. Cheques should be made payable to Alsager Gardens Association and your Site and Plot Number should be written on the reverse of the cheque.

Members will need to conform with government advice on social distancing and are required to wear a face covering. You are also advised to wear disposable gloves and use hand gel to sanitise your hands before and after visiting the Trading Hut.

Your help in complying with these requirements is much appreciated as this is aimed at keeping our Hut Volunteers and our Members safe by minimising the potential to come into contact with COVID19.

We will review the Hut Opening arrangements after the second week and if we find that these measures are not working or not being complied to, then we will have no option but to close the Trading Hut until it is safe to reopen.



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

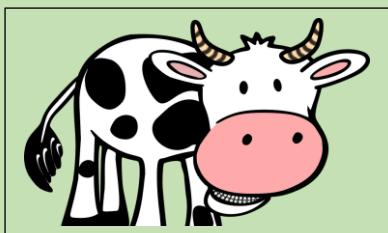
4. Subs

SubsAWilliams

Please remember to also email.

davidpitt4@sky.com

with the details of your payment!



“COW MUCK”



Did you get some for your allotment site?

Further to the articles in bulletins No 9 and No 7

We had the “Muck” delivered to our allotment sites in late October 2020.

Members who took the manure stated they were incredibly pleased with the appearance and quality of the loads we received, evidenced by the rate at which it was shovelled at speed and barrowed away to the various plots!

At Talke Road and Lawton Road we received one load each, but at Cedar Avenue (our largest site) we received three loads – and it all went very quickly!



Our thanks go to Bob Cliffe and Mike Hubbard for organising the deliveries.



Thanks also to John Nixon, site manager at Talke Road, who has an excellent process to inform members of availability and recover all monies for muck taken. This involves a good deal of his time spent on the site at the key time to make this happen!

However, we are not able to operate the same process at the other sites. At Cedar Avenue, as the monies received to date do not reflect the three loads of manure that was received and taken, it is evident that there are several payments still outstanding.

We do understand that some of our members may have had difficulty with paying by direct bank transfer, so we are looking forward to any monies that remain outstanding being paid by cash or cheque, to the Trading Hut during its opening times in early March.

To those members that have already paid by bank transfer or direct to the site managers a big “Thank You”.

The site managers do a fantastic job and give up a good deal of their personal time to support and maintain the allotment sites. The fact that you have made it so much easier by paying us promptly makes the whole process much less time consuming!

EVENTS THIS YEAR

Covid Permitting



It is still very early days yet to firmly commit to our usual spring and summer events schedule. However we ran a highly successful and socially distanced Seed and Plant sale last year, during May, at our Cedar Avenue Allotment Site.

We are hoping that we will be able to do this again in Mid-May this year with the support of our volunteers.

But to make this happen we need your help.

As you start to plant your flower and vegetable seeds please can you pop in a few more so that you can pass them onto us for the Seed and Plant Sale?

Even if you can only do an extra tray of something this will be most welcome.

This year has seen problems with supplies of seeds and potatoes so any spares you have will help your fellow members, gardeners and allotmenters. There is a great community spirit on our allotments so anything we can do to further help each other is appreciated by all.

Further news on this and specific arrangements will follow in the April Bulletin.



Association News

Confirmation of our AGM on Tuesday 9th March at 8pm

We will be sending out the AGM agenda, reports and papers at the end of February together with
the details of how to access the virtual meeting via ZOOM .

Do you want to Join the AGA Committee?

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 or by making your nomination on the night at the AGM.

In the meantime - A reminder about how to access ZOOM

To join the meeting all you will need to do is to click the “Join Link” that we will send you with the Agenda.

If you do not have the ZOOM app already loaded, then by clicking join you will be prompted to download and install ZOOM on your computer or mobile device. To enter the meeting you will be asked to enter the password we send you with the join link.

Want to try it before the meeting?

If you would like to familiarise yourself with ZOOM in advance of the AGM, or sign up for it as the free to use application then go to

<https://zoom.us/freesignup/>

You can also use the link below to download the application or to try a test meeting.

Before joining a Zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the Zoom app from [our Download Center](#). Otherwise, you will be prompted to download and install Zoom when you click a join link.

You can also [join a test meeting](#) to familiarize yourself with Zoom.

Look out for the AGM Zoom meeting joining information with the Agenda which will be landing in your Inbox at the end of February.