



Newsletter

May 2024

Administration matters.

The 2024-2025 sub-tenancy agreement are now completed. Emails and phone numbers are being updated. There remains some gaps which we will follow up with members. It is important that we have the correct information.

A review of the Society's Rules and Policies is taking place. For 2024-2025, the 2022 v1.1 is in use. These have been formatted and amended to comply with the 1908-1950 Allotment Acts and the Model Rules. The substantive content is unchanged. A copy can be found on the website:

<https://wingerworthallotment.co.uk/rules-and-policies> . This is a password protected page: use C followed by the gate code when viewing the document. The new Board will have further ongoing reviews. Please do not share this document with non-members.

Plot inspections have been delayed due to the waterlogged state of plots and the site generally. The first plot inspection will be a Health & Safety inspection which will take place in the next couple of weeks. The rain however now seems to be subsiding and that nice big yellow circle in the sky is shining and encouraging us all to spend our spare time up at the allotment to start digging up those nasty weeds and start planting our delicious home-grown. Just a polite reminder to all members unable to have yet started on their plots for this year, please have a tidy up on your plot, repair/replace fences, ensure pathways are not obstructed and undertake general maintenance. We hope to have further deliveries of wood chip for use on plots soon.

Site statistics:

Membership	138	69 plot holders, 37 joint plot holders, 32 associates
New members this Feb 24	12	6 joint plot holders 6 associates
Number of plots	74	70 rented
Vacant	2	D7b C9a,
Community plot	1	X3
Waiting list	2	One refused a plot, another didn't attend a meeting.
Total plots cultivated area	10,878m ²	The site is 17,441m ² , the Board maintains 6,563m ² including the site boundaries.
Average plot size	147m ²	Largest is 283.8m ² , smallest 58.8m ²

Board notes for the AGM

Many thanks to all the members who came to the AGM on Tuesday 30 April.

Minutes of the meeting will be published soon and made available for all to view.

Accounts for 2023-2024 season are currently being finalised and further communication relating to this will be issued in due course.

Results of the vote for the board for the 2024-2025 season are as follows:-

Chair	Hazel Prime
Secretary	Kay Whiting
Treasurer	Mark Whiting
Directors	Noel Edwards
	Dominic Driscoll
	Greg Hart
	Keith Postlethwaite
	Nicki Ward
	Janet Carter

We would like to welcome our new board members Mark Whiting and Janet Carter and also to Kay Whiting who has moved from a co-opted member of the board to her newly appointed position as secretary.

We would also like to thank previous board members, Liz Andrews and Claire Donovan for all their hard work and contribution to previous board/allotment management activities and wish them well for continual success with their growing seasons ahead.

Parish Council

We understand that a Parish Council Working Group has been set up to review the lease and we hope to be invited to meet with them in the near future.

Use of chemicals on site.

Chemicals – products such as fertilizers, wood preservatives, pesticides and weedkillers are toxic substances. These need to be used correctly and can be dangerous to humans, wildlife/insects and plants. In the Health and Safety and sub-tenancy agreement, it contains references to the use of chemicals. When using any chemical spray please follow the safety instructions and personal protection guidelines.

As a Society we prefer members not to use chemicals and practise ecologically friendly gardening. Instead of a quick chemical spray why not undertake regular weeding, use of weed suppressing fabric, mulching and generally keeping on top of your plot.

You could use chemicals to clear the weeds and grass by spraying with a herbicide such as glyphosphate. The land will be cleared in a few weeks as this will kill the weeds completely and they will not re-grow, so the plot can be dug over as normal. But there are downsides to think of.

The manufacturers of such herbicides claim they are environmentally safe. However there is mounting evidence that glyphosphate harms various animals and insects especially bees, and harming one class of animal results in harm to other classes of animal who depend on them and ultimately pollination.

Secondly, there is a problem with overspray. A rule of thumb is not to spray on a windy day or when raining nor on saturated ground, you should not spray within a metre of your neighbours plot. Use a spray hood to direct the spray. These are two informative webpage links.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/prevention-protection/chemicals-storing-and-disposing-safely>

<https://www.westoxfordallotments.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Glyphosate-on-allotments-v2.pdf>

Social events

June - Support for Ashgate Cake and coffee morning
 July - Summer BBQ
 September - MacMillan Coffee Morning.

Details to follow for Sunflower/Scarecrow competition

If you have any other ideas please let Kay or Hazel know.

IBCs

We have a good relationship with Envrii who can supply them but the supply can be haphazard, please contact the Secretary to go on the waiting list. The cost for an IBC is £40.

Community Plot.

The intention is for the group meet every other Wednesday morning during the growing season. Anyone can help out or donate surplus plants. If you do not have a greenhouse or poly tunnel, you can use the poly tunnel to bring on seeds or seedlings. Please make sure you label clearly any seed trays/pots.

Facebook groups

We have three Facebook pages:

1. A strictly private, members only Facebook group #wingerworthallotments. It has proved a quick way of contacting members and sharing information. We would encourage all to sign up.

The Facebook page is meant only for sharing of gardening ideas, allotment news and social events. We ask that anything else is not posted and if members have a question, this should be directed to the Secretary. Posts flouting this request maybe taken down.

2. A publicity Facebook page #wingerworthallotmentcooperativesociety. This has been set up to fulfil our grants criteria which will update on progress with work related to awards. It is not possible to join this page.

3. A private, members only Facebook group #Community plot. This is for those involved with the Community Plot.

Communications

For any query or information the first step is to contact the secretary by email or letter. This will set up a document/audit trail. We ask for a reasonable request capable of being answered. These will be answered as soon as possible, bearing in mind that we are volunteers and have other commitments.

Members can raise a single specific question to the Secretary by email or letter for it to be considered by the Board. This must be submitted by 12pm by email or letter, three days before the Board meets. If the Board deems it would be useful, the member may be invited to attend.

Members can raise a single specific question to the Secretary by email or letter for it to be considered at any General Meeting. This must be submitted by 12pm by email or letter, three days before this meeting. Such questions will be responded to, time allowing and be recorded in the minutes.

A member may request a Special General Meeting on a specific issue. This must be written request which states the reason for the meeting and is signed by at least 5% of the membership. The business of the 'Special General Meeting' will be restricted to the original request with no amendments being accepted.

No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present. The quorum for any General Meeting shall be 15% of the shareholding members including two of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer being present. Details will be notified to members, along with notice of the meeting, at least 14 days prior to the meeting date. The requester will be expected to work with the Secretary in the preparation for this special general meeting.

As a Limited Company, the Board are the sole arbiters. No third party or non-members are permitted to become involved in the affairs of the Society. We are also bound by GDPR. Those who actively seek to undermine the Society maybe in breach of the Society's rule and policies.

NSALG

All our members are members of NSALG. Their website has a lot of information about growing and managing an allotment plot.

To access the site you require the following code:

user name: s21821

password: 6314324

Please do not share this with non-members.

From this months NSALG magazine

<https://online.flipbuilder.com/cwao/gwsz/> this is May magazine

<https://www.kingsseeds.com/> offers and news from Kings Seeds

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240322-the-most-climate-friendly-vegetables-to-grow-in-your-garden>

Shop

We would like members to volunteer to help run the shop each Sunday. Any help is appreciated. You can buy using BACs, card, cash or cheque. Any profits from the shop are used for site improvement or maintenance. If you have any suggestions for shop stock please let Dominic know.

Seed swap.

As last year we will be offering a seed swap each Sunday in the shop. If you have in date seeds you do not need, please donate these in the shop for others members to look at.

A thank you.

We have presented an Owl Box to Elizabeth who shares our south west boundary and gave us permission to crown lift the trees.

She has owls on her land and would like to encourage nesting. This was made by 'Men in Sheds' on our behalf.

Alan took it along and Elizabeth was delighted!

