

Gransden Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Report

for Great Gransden Parish Council Annual meeting 2021

Chairman's Report

- May I express my thanks to all the committee for their support and help throughout the year. They have done a wonderful job. It's sad that the current lockdown prevents person-to-person contact, but better times will come.
- Coronavirus virus : Over the year, the committee has made every attempt to make the site safe by defining the appropriate precautionary procedures. After the initial confusion, allotment use was defined as 'safe' by the government - and good for your health.
- 2020 was an odd year, with scorching weather through the summer, and perpetual rain in the late autumn and winter. The driveways had to be closed again this winter due to the water logging of driveways (and the event area), and we don't want the local tow trucks to have a field day. Thank you everyone for respecting this.
- Some crops have flourished whilst others have been less than optimal. Onions, shallots and leeks didn't do well last year whilst brassicas have done remarkably this autumn and winter.
- Some changes to plot assignment this year as some people moved on, and new members joined. All plots are allocated at this time, and there are few people on our waiting list. A healthy situation. We do expect some plots (or half plots) to become available as we reach the Summer.
- The Autumn 2020 Risk Assessment was conducted and, apart from the need to keep abreast of compost bin turning to disrupt vermin, things have improved. We had to call the Pest Controller in from HDC twice last year.
- The Spring 2021 Risk Assessment is due to be performed.
- The two water catchment systems were installed and the tanks are now 100% full. Taps have now been fitted to each tank therefore we should have 8,000 litres of water to serve the 2021 season.

April 2021

- Our intent to introduce apiaries onto the site to encourage diversity of allotment activities, and to improve flower fertilisation in the orchard, plots and wildflower meadow did not occur, principally due to covid restrictions, but the intent is still there. You should note that the intent would be to site hives on the opposite side of the allotment site, away from the allotment plots.
- The Accounts have been audited by Sue Chase, and our sincere thanks go to Sue.
- Thank also go Des Merrill and Mike Capps for their unstinting support for the Society in the form of grass cutting (driveways and wildflower meadow). We would find it difficult to maintain the site without their help.

Signed :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deb Greenland', written on a light-colored background.

pp Deb Greenland

Chairman, Gransden Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Society

April, 2021