

Spring Newsletter 2023

Stotes Hall Allotment Gardens Society

A warm welcome to new members: Gabby, Henry & Thea, Andrea, John & Anne. They've joined at a time when managing weeds and pests (especially slugs, pigeons and deer) is crucial!

Weeds are prolific this year due to the combination of sun and rain, and need to be removed **roots and all!** This is hard work, especially as more will spring up in just a few weeks!

Watering also needs careful planning as well as effort – spot watering (rather than hoses) is vital to avoid high bills, and we're sure everyone knows to focus on early and late – the heat of the day simply evaporates our subs!

For the larger beasts, netting in various forms is crucial. Some plotholders have a lot of experience of this - take advantage of the clearance and BBQ event on 24 June to seek advice. In the meantime, make the most of the growing season!

Midsummer's Day – 24 June – everyone is welcome!

Annual Summer Clearance Day, followed by our BBQ and Social

11am – meet by the stile to help with general maintenance.

(If you're unable to attend, please contact Ralph to check other communal tasks that you can deal with on another date.)

6pm – open fire in communal area at bottom of site available for BBQ.

Wood oven available from 5pm for pizza dough, 7pm for bread. Bring your own ingredients and refreshments! Enjoy relaxing with fellow gardeners and families.



OTHER ALLOTMENT NEWS

- **Stotes Hall Springwatch Special!** – our own wildlife watchers rescued a resident newt from a watering can, around the same time as BBC Springwatch featured newts. A video has been added to our website to help us all look after them.
- **Newcastle Allotments Awards Competition** – entries invited! Full details of categories on our website, also available on posters around the Gardens.
- **Annual subs** – your annual letter should now have arrived; subs are now due.
- **Plotholder Guidance:** The committee reminds everyone that all plot holders are responsible for keeping plots weed free, cultivated and tidy at all times, and paths around them tidy. The bottom of the site should also be kept clear and uncluttered. Please also respect wild uncultivated areas on the site, which are for wildlife.

Information on events, your Plotholder Agreement and much more is available on our website: <https://stotes-hall-allotment.org.uk/sha/>. For any queries, please contact Olwyn on olwynjoyhocking@gmail.com or of course have a chat at the plots.



Keep gardening, keep safe...

... & see you on 24 June!

