

Godstone Allotment Association

Annual Report to Godstone Parish Council May 2024

The past year has been a difficult one, we have had to defend ourselves against unfounded criticism and efforts to impose conditions that went against the wishes of our members. When we were formed in September 2021 it was to give the plot holders a voice and improve communications with the Parish Council. It has always been our wish to work with and support the Parish Council. In February both parties agreed to a new working agreement and since the appointment of two new members to our committee we are in a much stronger and confident position to take on these extra responsibilities.

We continue to meet monthly, attendance is good, in part to our new venue the Godstone Sports Club, an ideal meeting place although the meeting is taken seriously it also can be said to be a social event.

During the past year we have had two social events the first at the allotments in the summer where plot holders brought in food and drink to share. Then in January, a hot buffet at the Godstone Club it was well attended, good food and great company.

In August we awarded three plot holders with a certificate and voucher for the most improved plot, the winners were Tim, Suzana and Kristie. All our members could vote for three but couldn't vote for themselves.

There have been a couple of work parties in October and February we had a big clear up cutting back the over grown brambles and removing a lot of rubbish much of it has been there for years. We were able to get the scrap metal taken away, and the plastic waste, plot holders are slowly helping to remove and are confident it will be gone in the next month. The brambles and other non-compostables were burnt unfortunately receiving more attention than deserved.

Thanks to the negotiations between the Parish council and the owner and bungalow contractors we now have our own car park for up to 5 cars and a mains water pipe up to the Allotment boundary.

For the coming year we very much look forward to the water coming onto the site and filling up the water tanks, it will be a time to celebrate and we would like to thank the Parish council particularly Cllr Gardner for all his planning and work.

The matter of green waste that plot holders were dumping on the compost heap has always been a problem. In the past the Parish council has had to pay thousands to have the mountain of compost removed. We have always encouraged plot holders to have their own compost bins and the result is that the amount on the communal compost has greatly reduced. It has now rotted down to a good compost and we will encourage plot holders to use it for raised beds and containers after removing any bind weed. The next working party will be to reorganise the community compost but on a smaller scale and use some of that rotted compost for a wild flower area.

John Hale

Chair of GAA