

Report on Godstone Allotment Association 2022

The Godstone Allotment Association was formed in August last year. It was formed to give plot holders a voice in the running of the allotments and enable plot holders to work together with the Parish Council to make improvements to our allotment garden.

Since forming the Association we have organized working parties to remove the rubbish that has accumulated over time. The rubbish that could not be burnt or composted was taken to a skip organised by Councillor Case. In November the Association joined the National Allotment Society this entitled our members to third party liability insurance and a 40% discount on Kings Seeds catalogue. This spring we organized regular deliveries of horse manure thanks to one of our members with a tipper lorry. During May, we had a swap plant weekend where members could swap or give away their surplus plants.

All members are welcome to monthly meetings which are friendly and well attended, we are fortunate to have both Councillor Case and Councillor Davis present at our meetings. Communication with our members is important, we have our own e-mail address to keep members informed of meetings and notices, we also have our WhatsApp group where members can chat, ask questions, share experiences and knowledge. We are a small Association with 26 members, we continue to encourage all plot holders to join and membership has increased.

In the future we hope that membership to the Association will include all plot holders, we need everyone on board to make improvements and secure the future of our allotment garden. In the near future we need to erect a fence on the north boundary and a sign at the entrance giving the name of the Allotment and saying "access to plot holders only", to deter non plot holders from going onto the allotment, and hopefully improve our security. We are also planning to open a bank account which will enable members to benefit from bulk orders, it will also be necessary to raise funds and apply for grants. As an Association I feel we are now in a much stronger position to take on more of the day to day organization, ensuring pathways are trimmed, keeping unattended/vacant plots under control, welcoming new plot holders and giving them support to get their plot started, monitoring plots and assist the Parish Council in chasing up fees and plot holders who have not undertaken any cultivation.

John Hale

Chair person