

Acle Allotment Newsletter September 2017

Due to inclement weather , shortage of produce and lack of local interest the revenue from this year's Open Day was well down on last year's total of £401.95.

This was in part due to a reduction in visitor numbers and lower spending. It was agreed that for next year additional activities and attractions would be introduced; particularly these aimed at attracting more family groups.



However photographs show there was a hard core of allotment holders in attendance with Pat and the ladies laying on their usual splendid refreshments. Jackie made eight cakes to sell on the 'Produce' stall, alongside the lovely selection of preserves as fresh produce was in short supply owing to crops arriving early this year.

Other suggestions include having it earlier in the year maybe as a June "Afternoon Tea" style event as strawberries and crops should be bountiful.

Another idea suggests combining the BBQ evening with the open day.

Jayne suggested a scarecrow trail/treasure hunt around the area.



Jayne and Brian's archaeology display was very popular.

The next COMMUNITY 'tasks' day is on Saturday 23rd September. This is being organised by committee members Gwilym and Vanessa. If you can give an hour or more please contact them or just turn up on the day. There is a list on the new Allotment noticeboard of community areas that need some TLC before winter sets in.

Chairman Warren (Thorp) confirmed that he had procured new identification numbers for individual plots and that a plot map is pending (to be displayed in the Community shed)

The committee also debated the tardiness of some plots and decided to issue this statement as inactivity exceeding three months can result in termination of plot ownership.

"If for any reason (health, family commitments, change of job, etc.) you are unable to cultivate your allotment please let Warren know sooner rather than later. This will allow us to provide, if necessary, any short general support to at least keep at weeds down and the walkways clear. In the long term there is always the option to either downsize (check the notice board for vacant plots) or even to share a plot with a fellow Plotter."

A termination notice was issued to the Tenant of Plot 32. This plot has now been cleared and the rubbish will be burnt during the community maintenance morning on 23rd September and the plot reallocation.

do spring to mind.

"If Michaelmas (29th Sept) brings many acorns Christmas will cover the fields in snow"

Adam Fisher of Acle Lands Trust will meet with plot holders later this year to discuss their individual concerns over brambles and high density undergrowth encroaching onto their plots adjacent to the ALT land.



Trending healthy option vegetables

Celeriac, or celery root, is knobby and warty—it's not winning any awards for the most beautiful food—but on the inside, it extraordinarily healthy. One cup of celeriac, which tastes similar to celery and parsley, offers nearly three-quarters of your daily vitamin K needs and 10 percent of your daily need of potassium, which is important for healthy blood pressure. **Try it:** Chop and roast in olive oil, boil and puree into mashed potatoes, or shred into a fresh salad.

Cauliflower ..can be ground as a rice substitute, which is handy for Paleo-style diets. "Cauliflower is much more nutritious than white rice, and it doesn't have that many carbs, but it satisfies that craving," A cup of cauliflower has fewer calories than a cup of broccoli, but packs in more potassium and vitamin B. Nutritionists hale cauliflower—another potent cruciferous veggie—for its cancer-fighting properties. . .

Yellow Turnip/Swede....this earthy root vegetable is becoming a popular replacement for mashed potatoes, says van Wyk. "It's high in vitamin C and has a slightly sweet and bitter taste." Pair it with lamb, sausage, or other rich foods for a meal well balanced in flavour.

10 things you didn't know about allotments

- 1** Celebrate 100 years of allotment gardening during National Allotment Week, 11-17 August. Visit www.nagtrust.org for more information.
- 2** Email the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG): natsoc@nsalg.demon.co.uk for help finding a plot.
- 3** Chef Jamie Oliver isn't the only celeb who grows his own: rock chick Anita Pallenberg, actor Charles Dance and newsreader John Humphrys all have plots.
- 4** By law all councils in England & Wales (except Inner London) have to provide allotments. Local authorities are under increasing pressure to meet their obligation to provide 15 allotments per 1,000 households, with no more than six people waiting for a plot at any one time.
- 5** As councils try to keep up with demand, allotments a quarter of the normal size of 300 sq yards are being offered - and these small plots are even more popular.
- 6** Allotments cost from £6 to £50 per year for a plot of about 30ft x 20ft. Most have concessionary rates for older and unemployed people.
- 7** Rents for allotments are due on 29th September, Michaelmas Day, the day on which agricultural rents have traditionally been paid.
- 8** Allotment rules are legion, but vary from council to council. They might include: no barbed wire, no bonfires, no livestock (apart from bees, by agreement), no buildings (except cold frames), no ponds and no overnight sprinklers. Keep paths clear and your plants under control...or else.
- 9** Benefits of allotments: five portions a day, group discounts on seeds and composters, healthy fresh air and all that free advice from fellow plotters.
- 10** Plotters are great bloggers, sharing the highs and the lows. Try these: <http://onemanand hisdig.blogspot.com> (Valentine Low in East Acton); <http://www.myallotments.com> (Steve Partridge in Stourbridge); <http://www.mytinyplot.co.uk> (Gill in Bath).

Our fabulous secretary Gwilym is planning on creating a web page for us..(his winter project) Claire is working on a FaceBook page to tie in with her superb weather knowledge and contacts. These will be two areas to share photos and info during the year.

LOCAL NEWS

The Old Hermitage Inn was ransacked and booby trapped by the previous tenants but after a month of recovery work the owners Chris and Michelle are hoping to reopen soon with Fresh local fish & chips (and takeaway) on Fridays, maybe open Thursday and Saturdays and odd theme nights.

Acle Good Neighbours Quiz Night Saturday ?? at the church hall. 7.30pm. Teams of any size welcome...bring your own wine and nibbles. Contact Sally Aldridge or Angie Bishop.

Acle Parish Room (would be used for Parish meetings etc)

Public opinion is being sought regarding the old Co-Op building. about 80% of the original building could be rented and refurbished by the Parish (without raising the precept) to be used for meetings, clubs etc.



Ideas include...Drop in sofa area for older residents who are living alone to meet up and have a chat over coffee.

Maybe a couple of fridges/ cabinets with basic items for the less-abled to shop from during the winter months.

Maybe Sunday use for Craft/ Collectors table top sales (plenty of parking on Sundays) which could cover the rent.

Smaller rooms could be created with fold back doors to optimise its usage..for large or small areas for meetings

Acle Archive displays and local history/club talks...

The Annual Produce Show could even move here as the school wanted £450 to hire it , for the day, this year. (the space is much bigger than the school gym).

Write or email Parish Clerk Pauline James ASAP with ideas, suggestions and thoughts.

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A new door and maximum window will obviously be created by the Co-op for access for this new usage.

With limited parking mid week there are limits to businesses that would wish to rent this space so its perfect for local people to walk to.