

Godstone Allotment Association

Annual report to Godstone Parish Council May 2025

Since the last report all the plots have been occupied and we have welcomed 4 new plot holders and for the first time we had a waiting list.

We continue to meet regularly each month. In May we met our new Councillor with inspection responsibilities, Stephen Beagley who has agreed to inspect the allotment quarterly with our Vice Chair.

At our AGM in August the 5 committee members were re-elected and councillor Beagley presented Richard, Christine and Krystyna with a certificate and voucher for the most improved plots.

In June we purchased a strimmer/brush cutter, making it available to plot holders to hire for a small fee, helping to keep plots and pathways trimmed and tidy. Any profit will go to its maintenance and service.

In July thanks to our Secretary and others, we produced our first newsletter which was put onto the Parish website. We hope to publish our newsletter annually.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council for agreeing to pay for a notice board which was erected in September, positioned by the allotment entrance.

This past year we have had several working parties to keep the allotment site maintained, the largest of these was the Autumn clear up, thanks to those who helped to cut down the overgrowth, remove rubbish and helped with the bonfire, which was carried out safely, efficiently and with no complaints.

Our Christmas celebrations took place at the Hare & Hounds where we had a very good buffet and a good time was had by all. At the moment we are in the process of planning a BBQ in July

The growing conditions in 2024 were challenging due to damp conditions resulting in an infestation of slugs and the spread of blight, affecting our potatoes and tomatoes. That didn't deter us and a couple of plot holders achieved awards at the Godstone Gardeners show.

Our biggest disappointment was the refusal of the water company to connect us to mains water. In last years report I mentioned how we were looking forward to water coming onto site and filling up our water tanks.

Since November we have looked into the possibility of rain harvesting. We have applied for grants and thanks to SES Water “every drop counts”, The National Allotment Society and Café Connect (with the support and generosity of local residents) we were able to raise enough to start phase 1 of our plan. We have also acquired various second-hand building materials thanks to the generosity of others, wooden posts, beams, corrugated roofing and guttering which will greatly reduce the cost of the build.

For the coming months we will make a great effort to complete phase 1 of our rain harvesting project by August, in the North West side of the allotments. In the Autumn we will complete the planning of phase 2, ready to start the build in the spring of 26 which will be located on the South East of the site.

All these future plans will only materialize with the support and hard work of our members.

At the moment our allotment is very open, since the bungalow build there is fencing all around but the entrance is open and going forward there needs to be discussion with the Parish council to look at ways of making the site more secure. We want to protect all the hard work and expense our members put into their plots

John Hale

Chair Godstone Allotment Association

Kim Prime

Secretary Godstone Allotment Association