

# Hook Allotment Association

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2023

## GOOD NEWS

We have recently had confirmation that Hook Parish Council (HPC) has received circa £20,000 from S.106 monies that will benefit Hook Allotments Association. It's a long story, but the gist of it is:

- Back in 2011 a developer paid a sum of money (under what's known as S.106) to 'make provision for allotments' when planning permission was granted for a development in Hook.
- The money was paid to Hart District Council, but it transpires this should have been paid to Hook Parish Council.
- Through the persistent efforts of a few HAA members and (latterly) parish councillors and a Hart councillor, the money has finally been paid over the HPC.

In order to release funds a list of projects was sent to HPC to consider which of them could be supported by the S106 funding.

The Council has a legal obligation to ensure that the S106 funds are spent in line with the provisions of the agreement. The S106 agreement states "provision of allotments" as an appropriate use of funds. Written into our constitution is the provision that should the HAA fail, the allotment site would pass automatically to the Council to manage. HPC took the view that anything relating to the infrastructure of the allotment site would be left in situ should the allotments ever pass to the Parish Council and therefore could be considered to meet the criteria of the S106 agreement.

The HAA committee have discussed how this money can be best used to improve the site for everyone and will look into costs/quotes and a project plan, etc. to take this forward.

Watch this space.

## WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE.....

Soggy March, sticky wellies, hard to dig. Let's hope the weather improves soon so ground conditions are more conducive to our horticultural efforts. On that note, the water to the site has been turned on again, so when the drought comes, there'll be water to hand.

Remember to water wisely, it's the roots that need water, not the leaves, so spray hosing the whole plot wastes water. If you do use a hose, please make sure the water butt under the tap is full first and limit watering to 20 minutes, which should be more than enough to water wisely. This also means other ploholders get a chance to water their plants.

Our water usage over the last 3 years was:

2020 - 556 units

2021 - 345 units

2022 - 603 units

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1 unit equates to 1,000 litres so last year we used 603,000 litres of water! It was a scorcher as we know which would explain it but is still a huge amount. In terms of cost we are looking at about £1,200 for the year.

## OPEN DAY FOR NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME


Last year we received praise from the NGS for how wonderful our site looked for visitors and based on that, we hope to receive even more people this year. The dates are Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, so let's all make sure our plots are looking their best and really show everyone what a wonderful and cared for allotment site we have. See the page at <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/43119/hook-cross-allotments>



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### Open Days

Many gardens are now offering cashless payment - if they are they will show the  icon. Otherwise payment is by cash.

Saturday 1 Jul 2023

For this open day you can book your tickets in advance. Click on the yellow button below to book or you can just turn up and pay on the day.

#### Admission

Adult: £4.00



Child: Free

#### Opening times

13:00 - 17:00

Book

Sunday 2 Jul 2023

Share this garden  

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## **IT HELP REQUIRED**

Our website needs occasional updates and the committee is looking for additional help. Can you spare an hour a month to help with this? If you have some skills in this area and can spare an odd hour to help out, please email [secretary@hookallotments.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hookallotments.co.uk)

## **DIARY DATES**

NGS Open Days - Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July

Hook flower & Produce Show – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September

## **CURRENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Hook Allotment Association):**

Emma Checksfield (Chairperson)  
Trudie Seeney (Secretary)  
Kevin Gillard (Treasurer)  
Paul Trefusis (Site Maintenance)

Marian Bright (Vice Chair)  
Oliver Wagstaff (Membership)  
Karen Haysom (Ecology/Environment)  
David Saunderson (Communications/PR)