

# Issue Number 5

Of the Newsletter of the Felixstowe Allotment Association  
www.felixstoweallotments.co.uk  
Edited and designed by Peter Constable

DOWN TO EARTH



the extended summer and the loss of meadow space linked to the Trelawny Place development. We also are concerned at the perimeter fencing on this site, as more residents increases the likelihood of unwelcome feet visiting the plots, which is why I would ask you to close and lock both the vehicle gates, and the newly refurbished pedestrian gate.

It was with great pleasure that in October I was involved in the presentations to the winners of the allotment sections in the 2022 Felixstowe in Flower competition with

**Felixstowe**  
**ALLOTMENT**  
**ASSOCIATION**

the Mayor Sharon Harkin.

To close, might I thank the Committee for the work they do and the hours of their time given freely without complaint. In March 2023 we have the AGM. If you would like to become more involved in the Association I'd be pleased to chat to you.

I wish you and your families a healthy and Happy Christmas and as in all years, get the digging completed before the New Year arrives. *Neville Farthing, Chair*

**Christmas** will be fast approaching by the time you read this, the last Newsletter of 2022.

What a year it has been with a summer never likely to be forgotten. The crops gathered so far have been in many cases extraordinary with fruit being the highlight. I do wonder now we look at our brassica crops if they will fare as well due to many dry weeks, unless you stood for many hours with a watering can.

I'm delighted to report the Association remains well supported across the allotment sites which are almost fully tenanted. As with each autumn we say goodbye to some members who relinquish their plots, in a couple of cases, after many years, but then we see new faces, all keen to get started .

One change coming to Cowpasture early in the new year will be a one way system for motorists and hopefully cyclists to reduce the congestion at the main gate and the roads close to it. More will be released in due course but in principle once through the main gate one will always turn right with only left hand turns thereafter. Signage and arrows will help once sourced plus an individual letter before we start the trial, which we hope will be accepted as the norm after a three month test period.

The shop at Cowpasture has been busy this year, for all members regardless of their site. We have seen some stock items increase considerably in line with

everyday expenses and food costs. We intend to close the shop for December with a new price list being published for the reopening in mid January.

The seed potato orders and onion orders have been very good and the shop will act as the focal link for collection and distribution as they arrive from the supplier as in previous years.

One area that will also change for next year will be the ordering of seeds from Kings. Their order form this year caused many to scratch their heads albeit we achieved a spend over £1.7k and that was with 50% discount.

Next year, members can make the purchases ON LINE. We will be given a unique link to ensure we still achieve a 50% saving on both vegetables and flowers but the process for most will be more simple than tackling the Kings blue form.

The other benefit from ordering direct off the Kings web site is that members can use it as many times as they wish and each purchase will still attract the 50% discount on veg and flowers only.

But, for those who choose not to use the internet link we will still be able to submit a paper order via our Treasurer in September/ October each year.

We continue to meet quarterly with the Landlord, Felixstowe Town Council. In addition to the one way system trial at Cowpasture, we are discussing the rat problem that has increased there, partially due to

NEV'S  
NEWS

# A Real Gem!

Have you seen these amazing popcorn? They're called 'Glass Gem' and are the most wonderful mix of colours, truly living up to their name.

I sowed the seeds into cells and followed the advice to plant well away from my block of sweetcorn to avoid cross-fertilisation. I watered them regularly once the cobs started to form and waited patiently for their hairy tassels to turn brown. A rustle from a rat meant that it was a race to get them harvested and luckily about ten cobs were nibble free.

It was a real 'ooh ahhh' moment peeling back the outer husks to reveal the bright translucent colours. After leaving the cobs to harden for three weeks, I easily pinged the kernels off with the back of a spoon. Popped and drizzled with butter and a sprinkle of sugar, they are apparently 'the best thing I've grown all year'. (Thanks, son)!

Claire Mackinder



Inset photographs at the 2022 Felixstowe in Flower presentation:  
 Left: Ken Emery and Dave Carpenter  
 Below: Nev Farthing, Tracy Knights and the Mayor, Sharon Harkin.

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**Cowpasture Allotments**

SCALE: 1:2000 DATE: 24/10/2013

MAP FILENAME: CowpastureAllotments.mpd

North Arrow



## Seed Orders

**This year** we have had 102 seed orders for Kings which bought £4,317 worth of seeds and earned a 50% discount (on the seeds only) amounting to £1,741 between all those who ordered. We also had 96 Potato and Onion Orders which amounted to £1,067 and £182 respectively. Both are excellent value and justify your membership of our Association without the other benefits like the insurance cover, winter meetings and Hut 39 goods.

Thank you to all who sent me their orders in early; it was a great help. You may well have had your Kings' deliveries by the time you read this;

we expect the potatoes and onions to arrive in January. You will be notified of the collection dates in due course.

There were a few glitches with Kings' new blue form which we hope will be ironed out for next year- and make the maths a bit easier! A few people ordered items that were not seeds in the 'Seeds' box on the form. That attracted the 50% discount - but not for long! Some others didn't carry the discount to the Summary and therefore overpaid.

Kings have introduced an electronic ordering system which will allow you to place your order direct next year, but we will run the paper-based system alongside it, for

those that prefer it.

Details of this are - The system is available to use now for anyone who missed the Association's bulk order, or who wants additional items, or you can order by phone or by post using the blue forms.

If you need the unique URL link to Kings' website, please contact Claire, our Membership Secretary.

The discount is **for members of our Association only, so please DO NOT abuse the privilege!**

May your seeds germinate and your plants thrive.

Happy Gardening!

*Guy Pearse  
Seed Order Co-ordinator  
and Hon. Treasurer*

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## One Way System Trial at Cowpasture Allotment Site

**In conjunction** with Felixstowe Town Council, the Allotment Association is seeking to trial a One Way System for vehicles and cyclists, as from January 2023 for three months. Delivery vehicles may need to be excluded from the trial.

The reason being congestion at the main gate, too many confrontations on the narrow tracks, including damage to both vehicles and perimeter fences, plus wear and tear on the tracks.

The plan is to see all tenants turn immediately right once through the gate. The three internal tracks are to be known as:

**First Avenue** - parallel to Candlet Road, plots 1- 13

**Second Avenue** - shop road, plots 30 - 56

**Third Avenue** - plots 97 - 129

Suitable signs once purchased will help guide all

drivers. These include No Entry signs and One Way arrows. The 5 mph speed limit should also be observed at all times.

*In practice, once into the site, all drivers must **turn left** only, with no reversing and all **MUST** leave by using First Avenue.*

*The Committee acknowledges that the Winter months are quiet, but with more tenants than ever, the fact is that the tracks will be under pressure as Spring and then Summer approaches. If we successfully bed the One Way system in before we get too busy, it will help us all.*

*Please support the trial and, of course, all your feed-back is welcome.*

*Please see map left for further help.*

Neville

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## Local Sources of Manure

### **Heather Stennett,**

Gulpher Road, IP11 9RD

FREE! Help yourself to horse muck.

07802 455092

### **Dot,** Swiss Farm,

Falkenham IP10 0QU

FREE - Horse muck by appointment.

07724 057963

**Paul Vyse,** Trackside Nurseries, Trimley  
Horse muck delivered. Price by discussion.

07970 234389

### **Philip Warren,**

Greenway Landscape Products,

Gosbeck, Ipswich.

Good quality compost delivered.

Price by discussion.

01473 890360

*We hope the above helps.*

*If any member can source delivered pig muck please contact a Committee member.*

**Was it only** a few months ago that we allotmenters were spending at least 25 hours a day heaving heavy watering cans, unfurling hoses and prostrating ourselves before the Great Rain God in frantic efforts to avoid our plots looking like a particularly arid section of the Sahara Desert? We seem to have moved in such a short period of time from a Biblical Drought to a Biblical Flood, without pausing at any intervening stage to immerse ourselves in the delights of an English Autumn of childhood memory. Is this all yet another distressing facet of Global Warming, the loss of our seasons with distinct characteristics and their gradual blurring of one into another?

There are a couple of observations I'd like to share with you, things I've been trying to understand about my plot over the past two years. Had it been the one, single year I'd probably have ignored them, but as it's now two and I can't afford to lose any more sleep these days. I thought I'd highlight them for some advice from gardeners far more knowledgeable and experienced than myself, a mere novice.

The first one is about my runner beans. I always grow, as Monty's avid readers well know, Firestorm. It's a hybrid of a traditional runner bean and a French bean and has the huge advantage that it's self-fertile, so is much more reliable setting than standard runners. Where the side of the row faces South/South West the crop is excellent, however, on the other (slightly shaded) side, there were hardly any beans produced whatsoever, even though the planting/watering/feeding regime was identical. I noticed this last year and grew them this past Summer in a wigwam arrangement rather than a straight row, but the outcome was exactly the same. Are runners this

sensitive to sunlight? I've looked this question up in various gardening books and asked Mr Google countless times, but there seems to be no answer anywhere. So do other allotmenters see this same thing happening on their plots, or is it just me who suffers from Runner Bean Inequality?!

The second thing I've noticed is how productive areas of the plot are, when I've dug in home-made compost before planting. The difference between these areas and those

**MONTY SAYS**  
**It has all been a problem!**

where I've used the manure supplied by a local company (now around £200 a load,

it was a mere £55 when I first started out on the plot, now that's inflation for you!) is staggering. I've got five 'Compost Daleks' and fill them with pretty much everything that's waste on the plot – they take around six months to convert this into something sufficiently not foul to dig in. The bins last for years and years and if you pick them up via the heavily discounted offers occasionally appearing on the Anglian Water or Suffolk County Council websites – or even free on Gumtree and other similar sites – they're not expensive to buy. Home-made compost is such a wonderfully organic way to boost the health and vitality of the soil – and it costs virtually nothing other than the occasional handful of chicken pellets to speed the natural process along!

Looking out the window this afternoon and seeing that the downpour continues unabated, I'm thinking I might need to go and put the finishing touches on the ark. If there were any weeds lurking on the allotment, they must have been washed somewhere South-East of Brackenbury Point by now!

Monty wishes you and yours a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Keep smiling and keep gardening!

## New Members

### Cowpasture

Louise Cracknell  
 Anna Sullivan  
 David Smith  
 Charu Mistry  
 Mike Hood  
 Malcolm Relph  
 Kate Dickinson  
 Richard Allport  
 Stuart Mason and

Becky Hewson

Marc and Sally Hutchison

### Ferry Road

Anthony Wilcox  
 Rachel Webb  
 Colin Lee

### Railway Hill

Ben Lane

### Taunton Road

Lionel Woollard



## PLEASE NOTE

The Shop at Cowpasture will be closed during December and not be re-opening until Saturday 14th January 2023, with an updated price list in place.

Thank you