

SWAY ALLOTMENTS

Newsletter #7, March 2023

Sway allotments Burgled.....TWICE

For those plottolders who do not yet know the allotments have been hit twice by criminals. Once in January and once again at the end of February. It appears we are not alone the criminals have also targeted Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst Allotments. The committee had one lawn mower stolen, various plottolders have lost a range of tools, some of which were very high quality. Allotment boxes were broken into if locked and various tables and benches were moved as if in preparation for removal.

An allotment COBRA meeting was held by the committee following the thefts in order to review site security, offer advice and consider a variety of options. Due to the location of the allotments only certain security systems will operate.

At the October AGM it was approved that we could use CCTV at the plot. Any CCTV would only be viewed if a burglary occurred and only by the Nominated Officer - who in this case would be the Parish Clerk.

It must be realised that any CCTV would only be a deterrent as the criminals often have their faces covered, and the cameras, if detected, could be vandalised or removed and the police would not view such incidents as a priority.

The best security is making it as difficult as possible to enter the allotment site and if access is achieved any valuable items are either made as secure as possible, or valuable items are not left at the plot. We also advise that any equipment boxes are not locked as ones that were locked were targeted and locks broken.



The front gate area will be reinforced so that simply cutting the wire will not give access. The front gate will have a much more expensive high security lock that hopefully could not be cut with bolt cutters. The mowers will have security chains attached to the mowers which can then be locked to chains attached to ground anchors.

If we make it very difficult, have only low value items and have deterrent security measures the thieves may not think it is worthwhile to break into Sway allotments.

SWAY ASSOCIATION OF ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

Chairman: Brent Knox ~ Treasurer: Henryk Andruszko

Committee: Ian Stone, Derek Elkins, Pam Capon, Mike Green, Tony Wade

Parish Clerk: Katie Walding



BOB'S JOBS

What needs doing, and when...

MARCH

Sow broad beans, peas, carrots and beetroot.

Sow parsnips but make sure you don't use old seeds, always use new seeds for parsnips.

Prepare bean trenches, before you become too busy and work overtakes you.



APRIL

Start planting potatoes, summer cabbage and cauliflower.

Continue sowing lettuce, beetroot, peas and carrots.

Plant sweet peas and gladioli.

Finally, don't forget your sprouts!

Sow brussel sprout seed..



MAY

Sow runner beans, french beans, marrow and courgettes.

Continue sowing carrots, beetroot, lettuce and radish.

Sow sweetcorn and winter greens.

Plant your dahlias.



JUNE

Plant out runner beans, french beans, courgettes, marrow and sweet corn.

Plant out flowers for cutting: asters, zinnias, rudbeckia.

Keep hoeing those pesky weeds!

A word of warning, with the ever changing seasons, beware of late frosts! ❄️

Happy Allotmenting
Bob Marsh



We will miss you, Pam!

March sees the retirement of a longstanding Committee Member. Pam Capon who has had a plot for 20 years and served on the committee for many of those years is giving up both her plot and her role on the committee.

Pam will be missed and I think all plotholders would like to join me and thank her for all the hard and unselfish work on behalf of plotholders.

With retirement brings opportunity. Yes, it is your chance to **join the committee** and engage in the running of your allotments.

If you would like to volunteer please email allotments@sway-pc.gov.uk in the first instance, and your committee will be in touch!

Thanks, as ever, to you all, for helping to make managing the allotments a great part of my job!
Spring inspections are next on the list

From the desk of the Clerk 😊

KES

Our resident Kestrel appears to enjoy hunting at the allotment and is fast becoming our mascot.

With this in mind we are putting up a Kestrel Box in the hope that the bird may breed at the plot. The box was kindly made by Graham Johnson and the committee thank him for his excellent workmanship.



Competition

A £10 gift voucher is on offer for the best photograph of KES at the plot. So, dust off your cameras and get the photos rolling in. Email your photo to allotments@sway-pc.gov.uk

THE BONFIRE OF THE GREEN BAGS

Those who attended the AGM will be aware that the communal bonfire area has ceased to operate. The green waste you create has to be your responsibility. Ideally much of the green waste can be composted if you create a composting area on your plot.

To help you deal with the green waste the Parish negotiated with the NFDC to have 10 Green Bags at the allotment. It was hoped that we could increase this to 15 Bags but this has not been possible. The NFDC made a special arrangement with the Sway Parish. But it has been a difficult thing to manage.

The Bags are consistently over filled and too heavy for the Bin Men to move. They should only be a maximum of 20kg. Whilst the committee regularly redistribute the green waste to try to even out the weight we often have to remove material to avoid rejection of a bag. Even after this has been done plot holders then put in more waste as visibly the bag appears only half full.

PLEASE REMEMBER IF YOU CAN NOT LIFT THE BAG, IT IS TOO HEAVY!
PLEASE ADD NO SOIL!

If the bags continue to be abused, we could lose this special arrangement.

USE IT PROPERLY IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO LOSE IT!!!!



PARISH INFORMATION



BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Anyone can be eligible to stand as a parish councillor. Elections take place on 4th May this year, and you'll need to put an application in by 4th April. Contact the Parish Clerk if you might be interested in giving something back to your community

Nominations open until 25th April

Presentations at the Big Coronation Lunch, 7th May

Voted for by you, our residents

Vote online at: www.sway-pc.gov.uk/community or request a nomination form from the Clerk



SWAY PARISH ASSEMBLY

Our community celebration!

You are invited to attend the Parish Assembly. A chance to hear from the wide range of groups, associations and organisations within our thriving community. We'll celebrate the incredible contribution they make to us all through the provision of wellbeing, sport, culture, creative and social activities. We are so lucky to have so much variety - there really is something for everyone.

Drinks and light bites provided for all



Jubilee Field Pavilion
Station Road, Sway, SO41 6BE



Thursday, 20 April
We start at 7pm

Everyone is welcome to attend

www.sway-pc.gov.uk



Sunday 7th May
Stanford Rise Green
All welcome!