

HOUGHTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

As many of you will know we have an allotment site in the village. Over the last couple of years, we have been bringing a bit of enthusiasm to the area and many plots were productive last year.

We have a plan to use part of the site for a “wildflower” meadow and there are three blossom trees rescued from newly turned plots last year. Eventually this will be a quiet area where anyone can sit and enjoy the peace and quiet of the village. To this end we are asking for any unwanted garden benches (still in serviceable condition) which we can maybe paint or stain to add to the area.

There are 3 vacant plots at present which can be subdivided into smaller areas or taken on by multiple holders. Anyone can ask for a plot and the allotment association are very happy to have groups as well as individuals. Sharing the work rather than ever smaller plots is probably the way forward as there will probably always be someone around for harvesting the goodies as well as hoeing out the baddies! Plenty of friendly advice available if you are new to the idea and I look forward to meeting new diggers on the allotments. New villagers especially welcome!

Last year's progress

Lynda Middleton has agreed to be chairman of the association to fulfil the obligation of Parish Council representation. As she is a gardener herself this is a welcome development.

The allotments are now an Asset of Community Value and feature in the recent Neighbourhood Development plan.

The association belongs to the National Allotment Association who are a source of tips, discounts and advice- especially in the field of allotment protection.

A ride-on mower was purchased second hand to facilitate the paths being cut.

The Parish Council have organised the lengthsman to keep the boundary hedges in check. Thanks to Alan Young.

A social event in the form of a barbecue on-site last summer was an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other.

Elizabeth Sedgwick -acting secretary, April 2023