

KALGA

Annual Report for the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting April 2021

2020/2021

It is quite difficult to find the right words to summarise the past year. We all know what happened and what effect the events of the pandemic had on all of us so I am not going to even try.

From an allotment point of view, the growing season followed a more traditional route. There were highs and some lows but overall it was a good gardening year. The weather was mainly kind and most people had more time to be outside and spend time on their plots. Demand for plots has exceeded supply and we have a full allotment site together with waiting list. Due to the full capacity of the site and the increased time spent at the allotment, the overall site has never looked better. It is likely that the attendance rate will continue throughout 2021.

However, some plots were not worked very often during the year. This was down to the plot holders having to shield. Other plot holders took on the responsibility to help keep these plots tidy, as appropriate. Also, we did have a working party day and the site in general was kept looking good. Some members were unable to attend this day but a lot still helped out with general site tidying as and when the need arose.

Our committee was unable to meet during the year for obvious reasons but, through the wonders of Zoom, we have held a couple of virtual meetings. We even had one meeting, socially distanced of course, in the site car park. Our regular meetings will follow the Zoom route for the foreseeable future. We have also redesigned our website that contains useful information about KALGA and growing in general and we also have an active Facebook page for members that is used for swapping information and has created a good community spirit.

For the future, we have a waiting list of 18 people wanting plots and we will not be able to supply them with an allotment plot this coming year. There may be the possibility of us renting some adjacent land from the farmer landlord to create more plots but we have not explored this option yet. If we did go down this route we would have to seek financial assistance from outside parties as, whilst the plot rental from the new plots would cover the leasing costs of the land, there would be many additional cost that KALGA does not have the funds to cover. These would include new fencing, new water troughs and paths to name but a few.

Finally, can I, on behalf of KALGA, thank the Town Council for their help in previous years and hope that 2021 is a better year for everyone in every possible way.

David Steward
Chair