

KALGA

Report for the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting  
April 2023

Demand for allotment plots has remained high post the pandemic, when many people had more spare time and decided to take up gardening as a more serious hobby. We continue to maintain a waiting list and as plots become vacant new gardeners are allocated.

Our committee has been able to meet face to face this year and we have welcomed a few new members.

David Steward has stepped down as chairman. We are extremely grateful to David for all his hard work and time given to the committee and to organising working parties to maintain the site. David is retaining his allotment plot, so we will continue to see him.

Jim Boorman and Jane Micheal have taken up the role of joint chairpersons.

Following suggestions from our members on how to improve our allotment community we have commenced work to provide a community shed which can be used by all. It will have a sharing area for seeds, plants and gardening sundries etc., a notice board and seating for sharing a coffee and chat

The remainder of the plot has been developed with raised beds to support and include those who for health reasons, disability etc, may be unable to take on a half/full plot but who would like to do some therapeutic gardening as a hobby and to support socialisation. We are extremely grateful to East Suffolk Council and SPARK for providing donations to support this and look forward to opening the facility in early summer and welcoming new gardeners.

We have had a couple of working parties, with excellent participation from members, to provide some enclosures for wood chip that we can all access to use for paths or as a mulch.

The site is currently very tidy thanks to the landowner (John Fenton) who supported us with clearing the brambles from the side roads and refreshing the gate and fencing. We aim to improve our biodiversity by planting some wildflower seeds along the side roads to encourage bees, butterflies etc.

2022 was a very hot year and many of us struggled to keep our plants watered. Some crops did well, and others failed. Let's hope that after this very wet March 2023 (the wettest March for 40 years) we have a good growing year.

We attended the Kesgrave Funday and raised £25.60 to support KALGA. Children enjoyed making papier mache pots and planting a seed of their choice.

KALGA continues to be well supported and a popular pastime and our plot holders get a huge amount of enjoyment, exercise and fresh air, as well as the fruits, flowers (and vegetables) of their labours.

Jane Micheal/Jim Boorman -Joint Chairs KALGA