

Allotments Stockport

over 1,400 plotholders with a passion for Grow Your Own

12th May General Meeting

30 people from 17 allotment sites attended this lively event at Walthew House. Ken Harrop from Denton Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society spoke about their 2 shows a year, awards they won including at events in Canada, demonstrated propagating, and gave us all the goss on working



within Wilton Allotments in Tameside, a huge 135 plot site. They have rooted 5,500 chrysanthums and 1,500 dahlias this year! Plants brought along sold like hot cakes! An open invite was made to visit their Show Greenhouse on Sundays between 11-1pm - a huge selection of reasonably priced plants and hanging baskets are on sale.

Around the sites

Children from Cheadle Heath Primary School have visited St Lesmo Rd, most plots have been split, and several families with children are now involved; Craig Rd now has an active committee and are feeling very optimistic, they have several Eastern European plotholders: Torkington's average age of plotholder has gone down; Barnfield Rd also has an influx of younger families, a new community shed, and 3 or 4 people keen to do monthly maintenance work. Their *Plant Sale & Scarecrow Competition* was on 23rd May; Marple has great success with their working parties every 2 weeks - 13 people attend and get bacon butties; Thanks to Kath from Hazel Grove who brought spare tomato plants which soon got snaffled up; cultivation at Brinnington has improved, with new Asian, Eastern European and Scandinavian plotholders; Welkin Rd's oldest plotholder is aged 89; Dial Park is flooded due to a blocked culvert that will be costly to repair, SMBC has provided 20 tons of topsoil and woodchippings are wanted; 2 sites reported break-ins; Priestnall didn't get leaves last year and are looking for a supplier for Autumn 2015; allotments will now be charged at a commercial rate for rodent services from SMBC; **Allotments Stockport** Accounting Year will now run from January to December rather than April to March.

Allotments Stockport moving on - what's in it for members

Mark Shaw gave the main aims of **Allotments Stockport** if the Council proposes to change the lease to increase rents or even invite tenders to manage allotments:

- * Secure a long term lease for sites with security of tenure.
- * Setting reasonable rent charges & collect rents.
- * Ensure all sites have a metered water supply and any outstanding debts are met by the Council before the new lease is signed.
- * Fight against disposal of sites by the Council.
- * Negotiate responsibility and maintenance of boundaries and trees with the Council.
- * Acknowledge that each site is different and enable committees to manage their own affairs.
- * Offer support and guidance with paperwork.
- * Share information and offer other educational opportunities.
- * Offer to arbitrate in disputes.
- * Promote the principles of the allotment movement.

Allotments Stockport now needs to gather information about how sites are currently managed. It would be helpful if sites complete and return the attached checklist by 12th June.

NWCAA Media Award 2015

Thank you so much for the award for our website and Facebook Group.

Next Meeting Tuesday 14th July at 7pm
Turn bumper crops into booze - Peter Fox from Stockport Brewing Supplies will share his vast experience of growing produce to make wine, ales and more . . . Samples to try!

at Walthew House
112 Shaw Heath
Stockport SK2 6QS

All Plotholders welcome



Send your news, articles, comments & events to webmasterallotmentsstockport@gmail.com - the latest news is always on the front page!



Facebook group *Allotments Stockport & friends*

Allotments Stockport is affiliated to the *National Allotment Society*, the *National Vegetable Society* & *North West Counties Association*