

## Chairman's report 2022

Another year of Covid, but thankfully less restrictive than 2020. It has still meant problems for the vulnerable, and of course disruption if you became infected. Council inspections did recommence, but they did take into account difficulties from Covid. On the positive side the allotments remained open, allowing members and families to enjoy a private space in the open air. Once again we had no problems with vandalism although there was one case of theft from a shed, still unexplained.

We were able to hold our annual cup competition once more. This time the judges were in house, with Steve Rees, who has extensive judging experience, accompanied by the previous winner, David Dickinson. Results will be announced online shortly.

The shop remained open throughout the year.

We were able to hold our annual Open Day, much missed in 2021. It was a great day, good weather, a really good attendance and enjoyed by all. We had several garden members attend this year and they really enjoyed being part of the community.

Many thanks to Peter Cheyne for organising the gazebo, Robbie Hartt and his wife for organising the refreshments and manning the BBQ, Sue Tildsley and Mary Gleadle, for the raffle (thanks in particular to Sue for obtaining some great prizes from local businesses).

Thanks also to Steve Rees and Shirley Weeks for judging the vegetable show ( a really good show although we can always do with more entries! ), to Paul Lee and Jackie for manning the produce stall and those generous souls who gave their produce. And of course to everyone who attended and made it such an enjoyable day. We raised £380 for the charity 'Tools For Self Reliance'.

We held our annual bonfire as usual. The council created more difficulties and restrictions this year than in the past, so we restricted it to a 'Burn' rather than a social occasion. We also had to be more careful about what was burnt. We restricted the bringing of waste to the day only, which meant we could control the flow and the burn to ensure we could keep the fire within bounds throughout the day. Thanks to John Moore and friends for getting the fire underway and to Peter and others helping throughout the day.

We raised £380 for the charity 'Tools For Reliance' from these events.

The plant sale at Drayton United Church, Station Road, at which we usually have a stall and make £200+ for the association, was cancelled. It is also a good place to buy seedlings and plants. However, Simon Wire, plot 49A, grew a large variety of plants which were sold at the shop. This was a valuable service for plot holders and raised £250 for Simon's charity, Clic Sargent- <https://www.clicsargent.org.uk/>

The plant sale is on again this year, and the proposed date is 14th May. We are looking for seedlings and plants to sell. Tomato and bean seedlings are popular but other vegetables and flower plants are welcome. If you have any spare or are prepared to sow a few extra they would be gratefully received.

More plots than usual became vacant this year, some 8 or 9, perhaps partly due to Covid. Most have now been taken, leaving just one or two vacant. Welcome to all these newcomers. Good growing!

As I announced last year and you will have seen in the recent email bulletin, I am standing down as chairman at this AGM. I have been chairman for eight, or is it nine years, and although there are frustrations ( dealing with the council can sometimes be fraught! ) I have enjoyed it immensely, particularly the interaction with our members.

I would like to thank all committee members both past and present who have supported me as chairman and of course all association members, including those from Knowsley Road and Garden Members, who make this such a friendly and successful community.

Goff Gleadle  
March 2022