



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1
November 2020

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Welcome

2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone, and we all realise the importance of helping and supporting one another as we try to make our way through to the other side of this situation. The Three Towns Growers as an association has likewise had its challenges, but there has still been much progress despite the difficult circumstances.

This newsletter will outline some of the things that are happening, and hopefully answer some questions that are being asked by plot holders.

We aim to send you a newsletter every 2 months. Sometimes there may not be much new material, but there will still be updates and so on. You are encouraged to send ideas.

The New Board

The Board has struggled over the last 6 months to have sufficient members to be able to make decisions and pass resolutions. This has finally been resolved: we now have a full Board comprising of nine members, some of them original Board members and some new. Many thanks to those who have

volunteered to help. It is worth remembering that these members are simply plot holders who are prepared to give of their time and energy to make the 3TG a success, and they deserve our full support.

Board meetings are via Zoom and are every fortnight, so there is regular discussion and planning taking place.

Plot fees:

plots@threetownsgrowers.org

Newsletter ideas:

chair@ThreeTownsgrowers.org or

communications@threetownsgrowers.org

General enquiries:

chair@ThreeTownsgrowers.org or

secretary@threetownsgrowers.org or

communications@threetownsgrowers.org





The New Build

There has been a huge amount of work on progressing this by Board members. The Lottery funding is now through, never an easy process, and the architect's plans have been approved by NAC's planning department. The build can now go out to tender, and this is the stage we are at just now. The plans look great; the building will be

such an asset for both 3TG and the local community. As a rough guide, here are some details:

Building axis faces north/south, with the frontage facing north into the allotments

A split roof, with solar panels to the south and a sedum 'green roof' to the

north; Underfloor heating and roof; water harvesting; Composting toilet; timber pergola over entrance; decking area; Boot cleaning store; Foyer; Office; 3 X storeroom; Kitchen; Multi-Purpose room; Exterior finished in larch cladding

The new build will bring both electricity and water on site, which will be tremendous for everyone

"Gardening adds years to your life, and life to your years"

Development Worker

Funding has been secured to employ a Development Worker for the 3TG. The remit of this post is: to develop opportunities for local people in the Three Towns in key areas such as knowledge, skills employment

opportunities, and promoting positive physical and mental health. This will involve working with individuals and groups.

Funding for the post is over 3 years, but if successful then additional funding will be sought.

"Start dreaming, Spring will be here soon!"

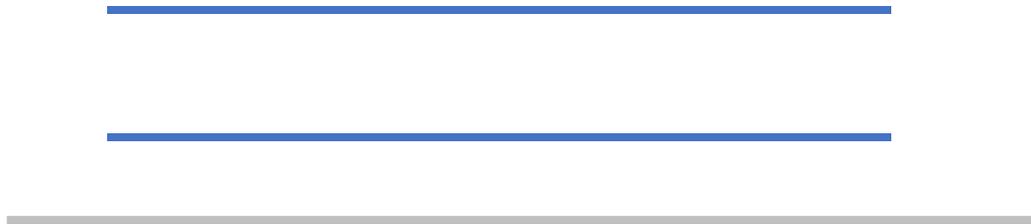
Plot Fees

We have had less than half of the plot fees paid for this year at the moment. Please try to do this at your earliest

convenience. Any issues at all, including the possibility that you no longer wish to keep your plot, should be passed to

the appropriate Board member- see the contact list.

Thanks.



Site Security

There have been ongoing issues with this, and it is clearly of concern. The Board has been in touch with Police Scotland, who are making regular visits to the site. We have also had a very generous offer of support from NAC to have community workers liaise with young people at the site in the evenings, in order to build dialogue and understanding. This community approach

really is the only way forward, as the site can never be fully secured. It has been an issue ever since the site opened, but damage has always been very limited and we are trying to avoid anything that would jeopardize a finely balanced situation. Your support is essential in this approach. Plot holders are encouraged not to leave valuable

equipment and other items on their plots.

During the winter months there are very few plot holders on site, therefore you may leave at 1pm and possibly be the last one on site that day. It would therefore be helpful for everyone to carry their key and to lock the gate behind them if they think there is no-one else on site.



Communications and Social Media

The new Board is resetting its communications strategy in order to make sure that plot holders are regularly updated on key issues, and have access to the Board. This newsletter is part of that effort. Our non-public Facebook group has lost administrators over the months, and we have reset this with a new 'Three Towns Growers' group that now has 4 Board administrators. This

is the only Three Towns Growers group that is supported and directly administrated by the Board. It is there for plot holders and others to chat about their plots, share ideas and so on. It should however be noted that it is not a forum for asking questions of the Board; this should be done by using the contacts in this newsletter. Any comments or questions directed at the Board will therefore

not receive a formal answer via that Facebook group.

It is essential that plot holders are aware that as members of 3TG they are subject to the Code of Conduct of 3TG, regardless of the forum they are using. Any post which brings the 3TG and, as our landlords, North Ayrshire Council, into disrepute will be subject to that Code of Conduct, a copy of which has already been emailed out to all plot holders.

Thank you for your support in this area

Hints and Tips

January 2021 edition

Duck Race



This has been postponed due to the current situation regarding gatherings of people. It has also not been possible to work on the burn channel.

It will hopefully be run in the spring.

Thank you for your understanding.

We need suggestions for our next edition. If there are any issues that you would like addressed, or any ideas that you feel could help others, then please let us know.

Gardening hints and tips, things you have tried on your plot that have worked, handy fixes....anything that you could share with us would be great.

Have you made something that has meant recycling materials instead of buying new?

Have you ideas for encouraging wildlife on the allotments? We are really keen to promote wildlife and to benefit the environment, so there will be features on this over the coming months.

Crimson Clover



This is great as a winter cover crop. Plant in the autumn, around September if your beds are empty.

It is leguminous, fixing nitrogen from the air. It can be dug into the soil as a natural fertilizer, a 'green manure', although it has a beautiful flower that bees love, so one bed a year could be left with crimson clover, allowing the soil to recover and benefiting insects.

We hope to move forward as one, and to continue to achieve great things at the allotments.

Thank you for your continued support

Mustard Seed



This performs exactly the same function as crimson clover. It is useful in beds that have previously had potatoes, as it deters wireworm.

