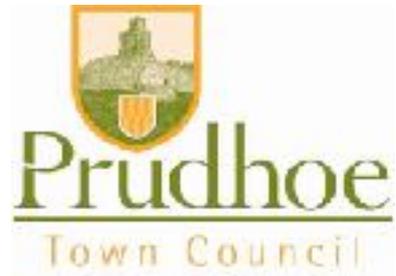


Prudhoe Community Allotment



Website: blog <http://prudhoecommunityallotment.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/632490283505861/>

Newsletter January 2018

A busy and successful year at the allotment in 2017 with a variety of Garden and Social events and a few major changes.

We were greatly saddened by the death of our Secretary Joy Henwood in September. Joy was a delightful lady and it was a real pleasure to work with her at the allotment. A number of members attended her funeral, a quiet and reflective service at Mountsett Crematorium.

After a search we have sourced a floribunda rose named 'Joi de Vivre' to be planted at the entrance to the Community allotment.

Our sincere condolences to Joy's husband and family.

Garden events.

PCA had a busy year in 2017 and saw a lot of changes.

Basket day was our first event. 38 visitors and volunteers worked together to plant up 43 baskets and tubs. We also helped Balls to plant their containers in their outdoor area and were delighted when they received a Platinum Award at the Prudhoe in Bloom Awards - well done!

Plant sale day was wet - very, very, very wet! However a few brave souls turned out to purchase plants and exchange gardening chat.



Open Day

Our fingers were firmly crossed for better weather for our **Open Day in August**. The Allotment President Guy Opperman, a regular visitor, promoted the day on Facebook and to everyone's delight the sun shone (most of the time)! From 10 o'clock a steady stream of visitors arrived to look around the Community Allotment and to enjoy the delicious refreshments provided by the members. Gardening tips were exchanged and many left with home grown vegetables. This year the beds were ablaze with nasturtiums and calendula in flower. Onions, courgettes, beetroot, rhubarb and freshly dug potatoes were all snapped up and the greenhouse provided newly ripened tomatoes.

Town show

PCA won 2nd and 3rd prizes for our peas, turnips and onions. As usual committee members ran the show raffle and talked to visitors about PCA.

Painting day

With the help of volunteers from the Co op all the woodwork around the allotment site was painted although some had to be retouched the following week as the rain came just a wee bit too early.

Social events.

We have enjoyed 3 social evenings this year. The first of these was a repeat of last year's successful Pizza and Pavlova Evening at the allotment. Thirteen people attended the evening on Thursday 3rd August between 5pm and 7pm. It was a dry evening but not as warm as the previous year's event. We all enjoyed various types of Pizza which we had with home- made salads made by members of the social committee. For desert there were two large fruit pavlovas to enjoy together with a home- made raspberry flan and cream again all made by social committee members.

The second event was a repeat of last year's, a Pie Pea and chip supper held in the Tool shed on Wednesday October 11th between 4pm and 6pm. We had a delicious supper followed by home-made cake and hot drinks. Everyone enjoyed a competitive gardening quiz with a small prize for - the winning team.

The last social get together of the year was our Christmas Meal, held again this year, at the White Swan Public House in Ovingham. We had a delicious meal together with plenty of laughs and reminiscences about the year gone by and a mystery present each from Santa!

On the allotment

During the year we have made a few changes to the layout of the community allotment. The two main plots have been linked with a gap in the hedge. This has made access between the plots easier for less able members and visitors.

Volunteers working on the plots soon found that it made working between the plots had become easier too!

The shed at the top of the plot has been removed as it had become badly rotten. We have been taking a close look at other maintenance work needed. Over the winter several plots are scheduled to be replaced, and guttering repaired and added to some parts of the buildings. This should help us to catch more rainwater and reduce consumption from the mains supply.

Thanks

We have been lucky to continue to receive support from Prudhoe Town Council this year. Many thanks also to our local county councillor Gordon Stewart for his input.

As everyone knows the Community allotment is totally dependent on volunteers to keep going. We really need your help with everything from digging and planting to making the tea at events. Even if you can only manage a few hours over the year it makes all the difference to keeping going.

When we open up next year we will continue with our 2 hour sessions on Wednesday and Friday mornings. It may be that there are members who could spend time on site in the evening and we would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in setting up an evening session - all suggestions considered!

Membership subscriptions remain £3.00 for the year. We will be updating membership information and will ask everyone to complete a new membership form with their subs. Please call in at the allotment when we open again in March.

The garden will be open again from Friday 2nd March 2018.

AGM

Our AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 17th April at 10.am at the Spetchells.

Officials

President : Guy Opperman MP
Vice Presidents:
Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland
Eddie Wardrobe
Marian Foster
Walter Dinning

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