

# Shepperton Allotment Association



## Newsletter Winter 2024

At last, some more seasonal weather. With Christmas fast approaching, it is time to remind you about our winter social. This will be held on the allotment site, come rain or shine, on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

### Our Winter Social



Although there will be our traditional buffet, with mulled wine, table wines, tea, coffee, etc, this year's social will be a little different. We are having a visit from Santa Claus, especially for the children and grandchildren of our plot holders. So that we can prepare appropriately, we are compiling a list of those intending to visit, and their ages. We will be writing to all of those who have expressed an interest a week or so before the social to check that they will be coming. We will then allocate some time slots, so that the children do not have to wait around.

All children will receive a gift from Santa which, as far as possible, will be garden/nature themed. As this is our first such event, we will not be making any charge, but any voluntary donations will given to the Spelthorne branch of the national charity *Home Start*.



Unfortunately, some of us suffer from food allergies (e.g. gluten intolerance). Although we cannot cater for all of these, we will do our best to accommodate any requirements, if you let us know in good time.

Of course, there will be our usual raffle and any donations of items for our hampers would be much appreciated. They can be given to any member of the committee or left in the community shed. The social itself is, as always, entirely free.

We very much hope that you will be able to join us on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

We also plan that, for those of you who prefer not to carry cash, we will

be able to offer card payment facilities for the raffle and any donations to Home Start.

### **Another Lottery Win!**

Well, not quite, but we have been successful once again in securing funding from the National Lottery for improvements to our facilities. The eagle-eyed amongst you will have seen that we now have a bank of solar panels on the trading hut. These should provide us with a more stable source of power, without having to resort to a noisy generator and regular use of gas for our working parties and social events. The Association really is committed to a greener, more sustainable, environment and we will tell you more of our plans in the new year.

For the time being, we must thank the National Lottery Community Fund. Of course, **'Our project was made possible thanks to #National Lottery players'**.



We would also like to mention that the solar installation, and some associated electrical work, was undertaken by a small, newly established, Surrey based company *Rolland Turner Renewables*, who had been recommended to us by one of our plot holders. We found the company very reliable, competitively priced and very competent. If you are

considering a domestic solar installation, you might like to get in touch with them. We can provide contact details.



### **Composted Manure**

Our next delivery of bagged compost will be in the New Year. As the price has remained the same for some years, it is quite possible that there will be a price increase from 1<sup>st</sup> January. However, the supplier has undertaken to maintain the current price for any orders we place before Christmas, so we are now taking orders.

If you would like to order any @ £4 per bag or £11 for 3 bags, please let us know and we will reserve them for you.

Payment will not be required until the time of delivery.

### **Woodchip and Stable Manure**

We are expecting further deliveries of both woodchip and manure in the near future, subject to the condition of our main pathway. We do make a small payment to both suppliers to offset some of their delivery costs (including the ULEZ charge), but it is entirely free to plot holders. You will now find a manure fork in the adjacent mower enclosure to help with loading.

### **Plot Availability**

For the first time in our memory, there is no longer a waiting list for a



plot on our site. So, if you know of anybody who might be looking to become an allotment gardener, do put them in touch.

### **The Bonfire Plot**

Within days of opening the bonfire plot, we accumulated a huge pile of wood and tree prunings, etc which was burned by one of our working parties on 5<sup>th</sup> November. We are pleased to say that on this occasion, we did not find other rubbish or green waste left on the site.

The bonfire site is currently closed while we have some maintenance work undertaken around the community shed (more about that in the New Year), but we will re-open the site after the work has been completed - probably at the beginning of December. It will then close for the season at the end of February.

### **Spelthorne in Bloom 2024**

We are delighted to report that our community garden, managed by Shepperton Village Conservation Group, won second prize in its category at this year's Spelthorne in Bloom awards. Congratulations to the team!



We also congratulate all of those plot holders who won an award at the end of their first growing season on the site. Some of their plots are featured here.

