

Easing of lockdown

With restrictions now easing it is a timely moment to pause and be grateful that positive attitudes to growing healthy fresh food allowed us to keep working our plots throughout lockdown. Many are saying the site has never looked better, with the majority of plots benefitting from people having more time or greater flexibility on when they can come to the site.

We must not, however, fall into the trap of thinking it is all over now. Whilst we can now consider bringing a friend or family from another household to site, we must continue to keep 2 metres apart and be on our guard about hygiene, particularly about surfaces touched by other people, such as at gates and taps. We must also be mindful that more of those classed as vulnerable could be coming to the site. At the same time for some it is currently harder to keep on top of their plots. If this applies to you, or if you think this affects a plot-holder near you, please let [Alan](#) know so at the very least the committee can see if help is needed.

The council has not yet lifted its city-wide restriction on having bonfires, so please continue to abide by this, noting that the ban includes incinerators as the issue is about avoiding smoke bothering our neighbours. With summer growth more green than brown, now is a good time to try composting as a means of dealing with waste from plots, if you don't do so already.

Hopes of holding an event if further easing allows

Although the July Open Day is cancelled, the committee hopes that further easing might mean we are able to hold some sort of open event later in the summer. This could be an Open Day of sorts, or something different. If you have ideas as to what we might do to celebrate the site, please talk to any committee member, or email [Jane](#). With lots of people inspired under lockdown to grow food for the first time or to source it locally it would be nice if West Mains could do something to help get these good messages across.

Water and Taps

The recent dry spell has led to a surge in use of hoses, and to committee concern about water waste due to poor connectors. Alan Gordon did an audit of all the taps and, thanks to David Turner on Plot 74, all but one now have fixed brass connectors which are designed to connect to Hoselock brand connectors on your hoses. Please do not remove these!

We've done our bit, so please now do yours and, if you find your hose connector drips, please replace it with one designed to fit. The Council's draft new draft Allotment Regulations say water must be used responsibly. Let's all do so.

The one exception is an existing connector on one of the taps at the church end of the site that can be unscrewed to fit a 'screw-on' hose connector. If this is a problem, or if you have concerns about any of the refurbished taps please let [Alan](#) know or leave him a notice on the steps of the cabin.

With a big thank you to David who kindly volunteered to do the work on the taps for us all free of charge.

AGM Plans

It may seem a while until our AGM but, with risk of some Covid-19 restrictions still being in place in October, the committee is thinking ahead. We have to hold an AGM to elect next year's committee for next year and for you to oversee financial matters. Alan (Convenor) is investigating hiring the Reid Memorial Hall which could

accommodate us should we still have to socially-distance. Because of availability this would mean taking the unusual step of holding the meeting on a weekday evening, (probably Thursday 1st or Thursday 8th October). We are therefore considering including a short talk from an outside speaker before or after the meeting. We'd like to know what you think of these ideas. If you have any suggestions or comments, please talk to any committee member, or email [Jane](#) . There will be at least one change in the committee after the AGM as Jane (Secretary) is standing down. If you value our site and want it to thrive, why not consider joining the committee. It is not an onerous task but can be very rewarding. To find out more, talk to any of the current committee members or email [Alan](#).

[Minutes](#) of committee meetings, [committee](#) contact details and the WMAA [privacy notice](#) are available on the website.