

Claylands Avenue Gardeners Society

Claylands Avenue Gardeners Society was formed as a non-profit organisation in April 2010 out of the old Worksop Allotment Association. The Society serves an 8 acre site off Claylands Avenue, Worksop in North Notts. Four years ago, our site had a mere 16 gardeners; now we have over 100 gardeners on our site from early 20's to mid 80's.

The principle aims of the Society are to promote and preserve allotment and leisure gardening and to serve and protect the interests of the plot holders on the Claylands Avenue Site. We have a great community of gardeners who swap and share knowledge, plants, seeds recipes and who are not adverse to the odd cuppa shared on a garden in the sunshine with a slice of cake made from an abundant crop of courgettes.

In September 2010, we held our first annual Family Day (Issue Q4 2010) giving gardeners and their families chance to get together for some fun competitions and games. In 2011, the Day has been held on Sunday, 10th July. We were delighted that Notts County Councillor Sybil Fielding has been joining us again and also our Regional Organiser, Shirley Fleetwood.

For 2011/12 we are raising funds to create a Community Garden on the site for groups with learning and physical disabilities and to support the local schools "Food for Life" program. Funding has been secured from Notts County Council and Veolia Environmental Services in support of this project, but we still need another £12,000 to complete the project in full. Current funding will secure the civil construction works and the composting toilets. If you are part of an organisation that may be interested in taking on part of our Community Garden or donating additional funding, please come up and see us during the shop hours or contact us via our website.

We have prepared and submitted a Planning Application for our Learning Centre and Toilets and hope to have the majority of the civil works completed this year.

Is your site considering self administration or self-management? If so, watch this space as over the last 16 months we have worked very hard to achieve this status and should be in full control of the site by April 2012. A big thank you to our Regional Organiser, Shirley and to Richard Merville of Bassetlaw District Council, without whose help, this would not have been achieved. The transfer of responsibilities from the Council will commence over the summer months, with the first bills being issued by our Society in October.

Who says 'allotmenting' isn't fun? We certainly think so, and apart from growing great food, it's a great opportunity to work with the local community.

For more details of where and who we are, current events and projects and our on-site shop, you can find us at www.claylands.org.uk.

Martin Hadfield
Chairman, Claylands Avenue Gardeners Society