

January 2022

Dear Tenants

Welcome to our latest newsletter. With it you should find the invoice for your 2022 plot rent. Once again, there is no increase in price. YACIO has not increased rents since taking over running the allotments from York City Council at the end of 2017.

If possible please try and pay your rent online. This is quicker and easier for our hard working administrator to process. It also means we can keep costs down so there's more money to spend on the 'frontline', maintaining and improving allotments.

Also with this newsletter you should find a copy of the revised Tenancy Agreement. In the September newsletter we highlighted that a new Agreement was in progress and posted an initial draft on the website for information and comment. A number of tenants got in touch by email with the suggestions for changes and improvements. There were also three online Zoom consultations that provided additional helpful feedback. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed. Wherever possible we've tried to incorporate all comments and suggestions received.

The new Tenancy Agreement is intended to help everyone get the best out of their plot in a way that respects and cares for everyone and everything on allotment sites, now and in the future. There is no need to sign and return the Agreement, payment of your 2022 rental invoice will signify consent to the revised terms.

Let's hope 2022 is a bountiful growing year!

**Tony Chalcraft**  
Chair of Trustees

*Save the date!*

*26th March 2022*

We hope to be able to hold an in person **AGM** this year but we will need to keep this under review as the situation changes and we will make sure to keep you updated as we know more.

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## *Slugs and Spuds*

If you grow potatoes on the plot you may be familiar with the sluggy spud. It's generally soil dwelling 'keel' slugs that carry out the mining and tunnelling with potatoes lifted in late summer and autumn worst affected.

Strewing wildlife unfriendly slug pellets isn't a solution, while the much touted parasitic nematodes are expensive to buy and must be applied several times to be effective. A better way to minimise damage is to grow potato varieties that are slug resistant.

One of the best is the second early Kestrel. For a later maturing maincrop, the King Edward like Carolus is a good bet. The flavoursome Charlotte also has good slug resistance. In contrast, some varieties are especially susceptible. The widely available Maris Piper is a martyr to molluscs. The popular Cara and Pentland Crown are also very vulnerable.

### *Exciting new project at Holgate Allotments*

We're delighted to offer Holgate Allotment Association a significant financial contribution to help kickstart their Community Orchard and Apiary project.

We were impressed with their proposal to transform an unused and permanently overgrown allotment plot on the edge of the site into a beautiful and productive space for the local community and allotment holders to enjoy.

So far, a working group from Holgate Allotment Association have cleared the area of giant hogweed and brambles and GoodGym have been engaged in a series of evening sessions to help dig over the entire area.

The Association are currently hard at work writing bids to help fund the next phase of the development which will include the purchase of fruit trees and wildlife friendly plants as well as a series of accessible raised beds and a large circular bench ideal for socialising and informal learning sessions. We'll keep you posted on their progress.

### *Trustee Vacancies*

We still have two vacancies on our Board of Trustees. Trustees meet once a month to make decisions about the management of the allotments. If you would like to contribute to deciding how the allotments are run get in touch to find out what is involved in the role!

### *Plot Numbers*

It is really helpful to us if plots have their plot number somewhere near their entrance so we can correctly identify which plot is which. This can speed up maintenance jobs and make sure that we get in touch with the correct tenants if we need to. You can find your plot number on the top of your invoice included with this newsletter.

## Meet The Trustees: Simon Wild

I am another Trustee with a plot at Low Moor. I am also a member of the Low Moor Association and was previously a Site Secretary at Low Moor for roughly 8 years!

I've had an allotment since 2008, starting with a plot that was completely overgrown, especially with brambles. I thoroughly enjoy the challenges and opportunities it has brought me over time, from pulling the brambles, recovering from arson and more recently an inability to label my seedlings properly. This year I have unexpected sprouts where I thought it was purely purple sprouting broccoli! The ability to arrive at my allotment, close the gate behind me (well, pallet now, as the gate was another victim of the arson attack) and enjoy the outdoors, wildlife, solitude, and community spirit. Actually being able to grow new things, strange things (this year a loofa) and the usual potatoes and parsnips etc, is great for the soul and general health and wellbeing. After this year's arson it really demonstrated to me how there are some really good people about, a replacement shed arrived within days...



### Thank you to Paul Graham

After 20 years of service, our longest standing Site Secretary, Paul Graham, is standing down at Holgate Allotments. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for his commitment to keeping Holgate Allotments running smoothly over all these years.

Paul is always a helpful and friendly presence at the allotments and has always been glad to offer advice and practical support to new and old allotment holders alike. He was instrumental in developing The Carriage Garden, Holgate community plot which will be a community asset for many years to come. Thank you for all your hard work Paul. Now you can just enjoy your allotment!



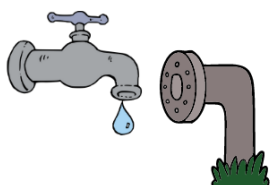
### Emails

We regularly send out emails to tenants whose email addresses we hold throughout the year. This can be the quarterly newsletters or site specific notices. It is important that tenants receive these notices, however, some people may not be getting them. Please check your spam filters and add [contact@yorkallotments.org](mailto:contact@yorkallotments.org) to your safe senders or contacts list to make sure that these communications get through. If we do not hold an email address on file for you then we will send important notices and newsletters to you by post. If you are not getting our newsletters sent to all tenants quarterly then something is going wrong and you should contact us to see what the problem may be. You may have changed your email address so please check to make sure your details are kept up to date so we don't lose touch.



# Maintenance update

Maintenance tasks and spend for 2021



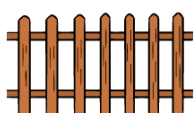
## Leaks

We fixed **26** taps, standpipes and underground leaks



## Recycling

We made **41** trips to James Street to recycle waste



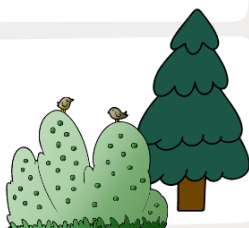
## Repairs

We made **15** repairs to fences, gates and potholes



## Trees & hedges

We removed **8** dead trees, pruned over a dozen more and trimmed hedges across all sites.



## Clearance

We cleared **8** neglected plots ready for reletting

## Major works

We are also currently managing a major plot flood caused by damaged underground drainage

Potentially costing up to **8k**

**ESTIMATED TOTAL YEAR SPEND: £18,000**

## Citizen Science Project

A new pilot citizen science project (funded by BBSRC and the Food Standards Agency) will explore whether antimicrobial resistant bacteria are present on home-grown produce. Scientists don't know if, or how much, antimicrobial resistant bacteria are present in home grown produce, or what growing and preparing practices might lower their numbers if they are present. We are looking for volunteers to help us design our project to make sure we are asking questions of interest to growers, decide on our methods, collect samples from crops and send them off for analysis, and help communicate about findings. This is an opportunity to learn some new skills, meet some new people (online), and contribute to a novel area of research. The project will start in January 2022, so if you would like to take part, or just find out more, please contact [sarah.west@york.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.west@york.ac.uk). The project is being led by Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York with The Royal Veterinary College, University of Reading, with partners Garden Organic.



### Keep In Touch!

If you change your contact details please don't forget to let us know! Just drop us a quick note and we can update your records so that we don't lose touch.

If you didn't receive any emails from us this year, then we do not have your email address on file, so let us know so we can keep you up to date with important notices throughout the year.