

# Compost Corner

“When you are old enough to come here on your own, you’ll no longer want to!”

Considered words of a father to his ten-year old son. Dave Gowlett had got away with only the occasional visit to his dad Alf’s allotment during his teenage years. It was 72 years ago in 1948 that his dad had taken on an allotment plot a few years after leaving the army. Back then, the allotment site at Melrose Avenue was much larger, extending back to the railway line. Two allotment tenants even kept pigs on their plot, recalls Dave.

Dave is probably the longest serving allotmenter who, in the course of seasons passing, has now given up his two plots to someone else on the Council’s growing waiting list. Dave has fastidiously worked his plots for over 40 years, and they’ve always looked well cared for, producing an abundance of fruit and veg.

Having grown up in the war years and with a love of working out-of-doors, Dave is a very efficient gardener, also having acquired expertise in landscape gardening and sports ground maintenance – particularly the careful and time-consuming cultivation of the cricket lawn at London Colney.

Many allotmenters who have talked to this quietly spoken gentleman will have appreciated and benefitted from his words of wisdom, such as his discovery of keeping a handful of selected bean seeds in his pockets for several days, which dried them to perfection for storage and sowing the next year.

Given the right conditions, what is carefully tended will return, and continue to provide nourishment for many years to come. Your kind and thoughtful words sown, and your quiet presence will always revisit and inspire us at Melrose allotments. We will look out for you and your bike along Shenley Road where many more have spotted you over the years.

Please keep in touch, and enjoy your retirement!

## Tatties, taters, and spuds!

Jim Mullen at Melrose allotments should be rightly proud of his potato crop this year. He grows several varieties, and by liberally applying well prepared compost around the seed potatoes, the result is jackets and chips all round!

*Anne Nicodemus*



## Borehamwood and District Garden Craft Society

It has been a very unusual summer for the members of the Borehamwood and District Garden Craft Society.

We all worked hard in our gardens and allotments which kept us busy in the long summer days. It helped us keep our minds focused on the beauty of nature rather than the danger around us.

Using the society WhatsApp group and Facebook, we shared pictures of our most precious achievements, organized exchange of seeds and produce, asked for help when necessary, and got invaluable advice from our most experienced gardeners. Keeping the rules of social distancing, we organised meetings between a small number of members always out in the open in our gardens so that no one was exposed to any risk. We are happy that all our members managed to stay away from the virus and so far have coped pretty well with the isolation. We have been supporting each other in many ways in order to maintain high spirits and carry on in a normal way as much as possible in quite extraordinary social conditions.

We are exceptionally proud of our member Janet Towers who took the initiative and made a fabulous flower display “Strip, strip, hooray” with which she represented the BDGCS in the virtual Town Flower

Festival on 20 June 2020 marking the 50th anniversary since Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer started making films in Borehamwood studios. Pictures of all entries have been displayed at different buildings around the town. Janet’s flower arrangement was one of the best if not the absolute winner.

We missed the opportunity to display our fabulous flowers and produce to the wider community at our shows this year but we are looking forward to a better year ahead.

Our AGM has been scheduled for 9 February.

The first flower show for 2021 is scheduled for 10 April at Allum Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Wishes and Happy Holidays to All.

