

## SAS Site Report 2021

Continuing Covid 19 restrictions have resulted in no volunteer working parties being allowed during the reporting period. This unfortunately has resulted in a decline in the condition of both the Western edge access lane and the central lower footpath. My thanks go to the community minded volunteers who have delivered and spread wood chippings on much of the lower path and parts of the access lane. Thank you. Just a little more required on the lower path, especially down at the water trough area. Most of you will have noticed the large pile of good quality wood chippings beside the car park entrance gate. Please help yourselves to this for your own pathways and too spread a little on the lower path or access lane if you can.

There is much encouraging evidence that most plot holders have commenced early Spring preparation work and in general the Site is looking good for this time of the year. Disappointingly some Plots still have much work to do on their perimeter fences and shared pathways. We look forward to seeing activity on the one or two plots that have had little or no productive work done on them for quite some time.

Due to the late date when the tree Surgeons were able to fit us in this year only part of the hedges have been trimmed. The rest will be completed after August when the bird-nesting season is over.

The common areas continue to be maintained by a group of volunteers who do the work in exchange for a reduction in their annual site rental fee.

We took the decision not to have an annual professional pest control contract. Instead Lee Carrington of Advanced Pest Control based in Crowmarsh Gifford has agreed to attend on an 'as required' basis. This arrangement proved very effective when he promptly attended to safely bait some rat holes that had appeared on Plot 40 and to remove a mature rabbit, which had taken up residence beneath the shed on Plot 33.

I and others on the committee have spent time repairing the fences down by the basketball net area, especially the rabbit wire that had been kicked down by people climbing over the fence to retrieve footballs etc. We hope that this, plus the blocking up of a burrow entrance on the Sewerage fence will keep the rabbits out. To help achieve a rabbit free zone I cannot over emphasize the need to keep the gates closed and bolted at all times.

During the winter the North end water trough has been fitted with a new float assembly and leveled to stop it constantly overflowing and the water trough by plot 29 has had several holes sealed up, but will probably require replacing in the not too distant future.

As you will know by now I am stepping down from the Committee at the end of this FY. If you feel you would like to take over the job of Site Manager please let us know. I will be happy to give any help and/or advice during the next year if required.

I wish you all a productive year.

Harry Beresford  
Site Manager