

**May 2025**

**Hello CAAL Members,**

This Bulletin is in bullet point format to maximise information exchange. You are all now shareholders in CAAL, you have paid your £1. Please see especially Item 7, where we are asking for your ideas and expertise for future improvements.

**1. Your Cttee:** Ada Grabowska-Zhang has joined as our Site rep, thanks you Ada.

**2. Site & Work Parties.** By Ada:

a. Work Parties. Of our 70 members, 10 have opted out and so far 44 have participated in one or both of this year's WPs. Good start, thanks.

b. Site. Brambles. We like them around the perimeter fence they provide free security/deterrent and blackberries in the summer. But if they are getting too happy and too close to your plot, cut them back.

c. Compost: We are doing well decommissioning the old shared compost bins, just one more left cooking. If you need help building a compost bin on your plot, get in touch before the next work party.

d. Plant swap: There will be a plant swap table by the sharing shed this weekend **31 May**. Please label the plants you offer with as much detail as you know, so the person taking it knows how to care for it or can look it up. If you help yourself, bring back the pots so they can be reused.

e. September WP will focus on removing rubbish and autumn shrub maintenance. If you can't make any work parties, instead of pay-out, you can do a range of jobs on the site as agreed by me (Ada). It will count towards your WP commitment.

**3. Plots & Husbandry.** By Deborah & Alison: Members maintain your plots and keep those pesky weeds under control! The growing season is well under way. Also, maintain your plot boundaries and take home your rubbish.

**4. Comms & Website.** By Tim:

- a. New website finalized, huge thanks to Grant and Dave Chen for their help.
- b. The address for the website has changed from “[co.uk](http://co.uk)” to “[org.uk](http://org.uk)”. Have a look at the new layout here: [cuttesloweallotments.org.uk](http://cuttesloweallotments.org.uk) Please feel free to suggest any improvements or extra information we can include.
- c. Email addresses are being changed, I will keep you informed.
- d. We will use the website for all comms inc Cttee mtg / AGM minutes, advice, calendar and governance docs.
- e. Please tell me (Tim) if you have any website proposals.

**5. Events.** By Rob: We had party of 14 US folk on a UK garden tour visit us 21 May, v. successful plus a £250 donation. Presentation available on the website. Hopefully to be repeated next year.



**6. Community Spare Produce.** By Rob: Produce (fruit and vegetables) is starting to emerge from our plots, rhubarb leads. So we can now start, please, donating some of your produce

to the Community Larder. Place in the Surplus Shed we constructed and Matthew and team will transfer to the Larder every Wednesday at midday.

**7. Grants & Longer term projects.** By Rob:

- a. Grants: Our links to the community give us a favourable position for grants. I am applying for Thriving in Nature monies.
- b. Longer term projects: Please think carefully about what longer term projects we should consider for our site, especially as climate change impacts eg How should we harvest rain to cover the increasing dry periods? There will be a member experts out there. Thoughts to me and we will discuss / agree at AGM in Q4.

**8. Finally your rubbish.** By Rob: Just take it home guys, it is not my, or the Cttee's, job to sort out your mess, grrrrrr.



The Committee

Cotteslowe Allotment Association Limited