The Plot So Far...

Newsletter of the South Harpenden Allotments and Gardens Society – Spring 2022

From the Chairman

It is hard to remember how things were as we are now at the second anniversary of the pandemic and we have survived the various lockdowns, relaxation of strict controls, reimposition of further lockdowns yet the allotments have prospered and for many plotholders they have been a haven of peace, a chance to exercise and socially distancing, see and talk to other people other than through a mask or on a screen. Spring is in the air after a wet and miserable winter and the recent winter gales. We still have a large waiting list and we have welcomed many new, younger members to 'allotmenteering' since March 2020 and with the prospect of a good summer in 2022 we hope we can get back to some of the allotment society social events and perhaps those volunteer work parties getting the sites into tip top order for the Harpenden Town Council annual inspections.

Thanks everyone for all your efforts over the hard times and here's to a prosperous growing season in 2022!

Mike Cobley (SHAGS Chairman)

Treasurer's report for 2022

Part of my role as treasurer is to set a budget each financial year. This normally take place in September. Firstly, I look at all our income for the year, that's the easy part. Then I look at all our essential running costs i.e. insurance, water, rates (we get 50% off as we are a not for profit organisation), petrol/oil for our machinery, machinery service and repairs, electricity, and general admin. I then allow an amount for our Awards Night and for general site maintenance, locks, keys etc. I then see how much I need spend against our income. I can then allocate funds for new machinery and improvement to

our 8 sites. We have a yearly process called our Annual Plan where I ask site reps to put in a bid for funds to improve their own site. This year I received a number of requests as the year before we were restricted because of the lock down. Aldwickbury asked for funds a new community wildlife pond and materials to improve the car park. Harpenden Rise asked for a new shed, we considered it would be a good investment if we bought a good quality shed with a long guarantee. Churchfield also asked for a much bigger shed but hadn't come to an agreement on exactly what they wanted. Piggottshill also needs funds for the car park; also funds were requested for a new door on our committee room. Our shop will fund its own improvements. The Annual Plan is part funded by the annual grant we receive from Harpenden Town Council, which is about £3,000 each year. As always, we rely on help from our plot holders to lend a hand with these projects.

Carole Pamphlett

Award winners of 2021

Photo Competition. All the award winning photos can be seen on our web site. The photo below shows the entry that won 1st Prize: *Smiley Courgette Boy*, by Gabrielle Van der Haeg PH84A.

Watch the web site for details of the 2022 photo competition!

Best plots. The Chairman's Shield for best overall plot was awarded in 2021 to Roger White on Aldwickbury. We have no photo of Roger's remarkable plots, but the attractive layout of the Aldwickbury site in previous year scan be seen, along with views of the other sites, in photos on our web site.

The Percy Bradbury Trophy for most attractive plot(s) was won by Rod Cooley at Oakley Road, shown in the photos below:

Best scarecrow. The winning entry in the 2021 Scarecrow Competition, judged from photographs by attendees at the awards evening, and shown below, was made by Marcia Dorey of Harpenden Rise.

The Composition of Fertiliser Products: what do the numbers mean?

We sell many fertiliser products in the shop and they all come with various numbers, e.g. Growmore 7:7:7. Many people ask what these numbers mean and do they matter. All fertilisers are required by law to state the content of nitrogen (chemical symbol: N), phosphorus (chemical symbol: P) and potassium (chemical symbol: K) **in that order** as a percentage by weight. For historical reasons, nitrogen is given as the simple element, phosphorus is given as both its common oxide **and** as the simple element (thus: P_2O_5/P) and similarly with potassium (thus: K_2O/K). Many manufacturers give the amount of the element soluble in water or weak acid (for the purposes of this note, these are all given as 'soluble') and some give total magnesium (chemical symbol: Mg). A few also give the contents of so-called 'trace' elements, especially boron (chemical symbol: B). These are not considered in this note. For liquid fertilisers, the amounts given are the concentrations after dilution according to the manufacturer's instructions. THUS, always read the label!

In **very, very general terms**, nitrogen is what drives leafy growth, phosphorus gives sturdy plants and encourages good root development, and potassium is essential for good flower, tuber, bulb and fruit development. Magnesium can also matter in the healthy development of certain fruits – especially tomatoes. You will see that, in the list below, there is a fair amount of variation. Many of the products have a reasonable content of all three elements. Some are especially targeted at one aspect of plant growth, e.g. the organic potato and onion fertilisers have slightly more potassium to encourage tuber and bulb growth, the Green Veg Plant Food has a very large amount of nitrogen, the Clematis Fertiliser and Sulphate of Potash (an old name for potassium) have large amounts of potassium to encourage flower and fruit production, and so on.

Most fertilisers are best applied in the spring or early summer. Putting them on in the autumn means that their full potential is rarely used as there is little plant growth. The possible exceptions to this rule are bone meal and the other slow-release materials which need time to release their nutrient potential in the soil.

It is not a good idea to put much nitrogen on grass in the autumn. This could encourage late, lank growth which can be difficult to manage as the season becomes wetter. There is also the risk that the under-utilised fertiliser will leach away over winter and is thus a waste of money.

As always, there are people on hand in the shop on most Sundays who are more than willing to give further advice.

[Continued on next page]

Peter Loveland (Sibley Avenue Plot 10)

Product Name and Formulation	Total Nitrogen (N) %	Total Phosphorus (P) % [P_2O_5/P]	Soluble Phosphorus (P) % [P_2O_5/P]	Total Potassium (K) % [K_2O/K]	Soluble Potassium (K) % [K_2O/K]	Total Magnesium (Mg) %
Organic Potato Fertiliser 4:2.5:8	4	2.5/1.1	0.7/0.3	8/6.6	Not given	Not given
Organic Onion Fertiliser 6:5:7	6	5/2.2	3/1.3	Not given	7/5.8	Not given
Growmore 7:7:7	7	7/3	6/2.6	Not given	7/5.8	Not given
Liquid Growmore – when diluted 7:7:7	7	7/3	6/2.6	Not given	7/5.8	Not given
Bone Meal 3:9:0	3	9/3.9	0	Not given	Not given	Not given
Root Builder 0:17.5:0	0	17.5/7.6	16.3/7.1	Not given	Not given	Noy given
Green Veg Plant Food 21:0:0	21	0	0	Not given	Not given	Not given
Fish Blood Bone 5:5:6.5	5	5/2.1	Not given	6.5/5.4	Not given	Not given
Clematis Fertiliser 7:4:10.2	7	4/1.6	1/0.4	10.2/8.5	Not given	3/1.8
Sulphate of Potash 0:0:48	0	0	0	Not given	48/40	Not given
Dried Blood 12:0:0	12	0	0	0	0	Not given
Phostrogen – slow release 8:11:23	8	11/4.8	8.7/3.8	Not given	23/19.1	2.2/1.3
Vitax tree and shrub 4.5:2.5:7.5	4	2.5/1.1	0.5/0.2	7.5/6.2	Not given	Not given
Vitax Q4 5.3:7.5:10	5.3	7.5/3.3	2/0.9	10/8.3	Not given	3/1.8
Tomorite – Levington 4:3:8	4	Not given	3/1.3	8/6.6	Not given	Not given
Doff Tomato Feed 4:5:9	4	Not given	5/2.2	Not given	9/7.5	Not given

Soil analysis: what can it tell you?

Most farmers and growers have their soil tested routinely to ensure nutrient and pH levels are conducive to efficient crop production and to help calculate the appropriate amounts of fertilizer to apply. Too little = sub-optimal crop yields; too much = detrimental, financially and environmentally.

I thought it might be informative to send some soil samples from my allotment to NRM Laboratories, Bracknell, for analysis. This company does many different laboratory analyses and is one of the largest agricultural analytical service providers in the UK. See: https://cawood.co.uk/nrm/services/ I chose their standard A001 soil analysis which measures pH, available Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K) and Magnesium (Mg). I also had one sample analysed for organic matter (A218).

I sent five samples: one a combined sample from five small (2 x 1 m) beds (code = 1-5); one sample from each of three larger (4 x 3 m) beds (codes 7, 8 & 10); and one combined sample from the other four samples for organic matter analysis (coded 1-5+7,8,10). Soil samples were collected in early July 2021 by scooping up many small amounts of soil within each plot, sieving and then mixing thoroughly for each test sample.

Results

Test sample		**Nutrient Index**			
Plot code	**Soil pH**	**P**	**K**	**Mg**	**Organic matter**
1-5	**7.6**	**7**	**5**	**3**	**-**
7	**7.7**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**-**
8	**7.8**	**6**	**5**	**3**	**-**
10	**7.8**	**7**	**5**	**3**	**-**
1-5+7,8,10	**7.7**	**7**	**4**	**3**	**8.8%**

- Perhaps surprisingly, the results were broadly similar for all five soil samples tested. This reflects the fairly rigid crop rotation I practice which means plots have had a similar cropping, fertilizer and liming history for the past 10 years.
- I also like to think it reflects a competent soil sampling methodology on my part. But as I have been an agricultural research scientist for almost 50 years, getting that bit wrong would be, frankly, embarrassing.
- pH values were slightly higher than ideal (6.5 – 7) and indicate no liming is needed for several years at least.
- P, K and Mg indices are a simplified way of showing the relative nutrient status, although amounts in ppm were also provided (not shown in table). For most vegetable and fruit crops grown commercially on farms, indices of 2 – 3 are considered ideal. Thus, the indices for P and K on my plots are high — indicating, perhaps, over-generous applications of 'Growmore' fertilizer. Solution? Have a P & K 'holiday' and don't apply any fertilizers containing these nutrients for several years.
- An organic matter of 8.8% for the clay with flints soil on my allotment is very good, indicating effective additions of compost and manure. On local commercial farms with similar soils (such as Rothamsted), 5% organic matter would be considered high. However, it is much easier to increase soil organic matter on a small allotment plot than on a field scale. Organic matter is 'good' for many reasons — retaining moisture and nutrients, improving soil structure and drainage and promoting soil health. But exactly how you measure 'soil health' in an objective

way is currently a 'hot topic' in agricultural circles. Organic matter is but one of many important factors.

- Nitrogen is the most important plant nutrient, so why no analyses? Essentially, it is because it is much more difficult to analyse for nitrogen in soils because nitrogen content fluctuates throughout the year so results are less meaningful than for P, K & Mg, which are less dynamic.
- Sampling in July is not ideal and may have resulted in overestimates of the P & K levels. Sampling is better done in early autumn after crops are harvested. Cost of this indulgence? £86.40. I'll have to give up using 'Growmore' and lime for a very long time to recover that cost!

Stephen Moss (Topstreet plot 27)

Analysis of my allotment soil shows it is in good condition; it has high organic matter and nutrient levels and a reasonable pH.

Our Allotment History

In 2002 Alison and I took some friends for a walk along the path between Grove school and the Aldwickbury allotment site. We looked over the gates and hardly any plots were in use and thought the site might be used for house building (some things don't change). The first photo (below) shows the site in 2002. So we decide to take a plot and the second photo shows the plot we were allocated. It took a lot of work but soon we took an adjacent plot and then extended one of them. For a while I was a site rep. Later the hazel coppice was planted beside our plots and the trees along the path behind Grove school got taller and shady so we moved to new plots higher up the site in 2017. Later one of the shading trees was removed! With global warming perhaps shade is what you need!

There is nothing better than eating sweetcorn on the day you pick it and all fresh picked veg tastes great.
Happy plotting.

Paul Gardiner (Aldwickbury plot 27)

Vegetable Sudoku Puzzle

						E	G	B
	U		O					
N			G					R
				N	B	A		
E	G					U		
		I		A				
G			R					
	A	U		O				

This is a standard Sudoku puzzle but with letters substituted for numbers. Normal Sudoku rules apply: Each row, column or 3x3 mini-grid should contain each of the letters A,E,I,O,U,B,G,N and R. Once completed a word search of the grid should reveal a vegetable.

Hint: Letters causing a problem? – try some algebra!

Peter Goucher

[The solution is at the end – but don't look yet!]

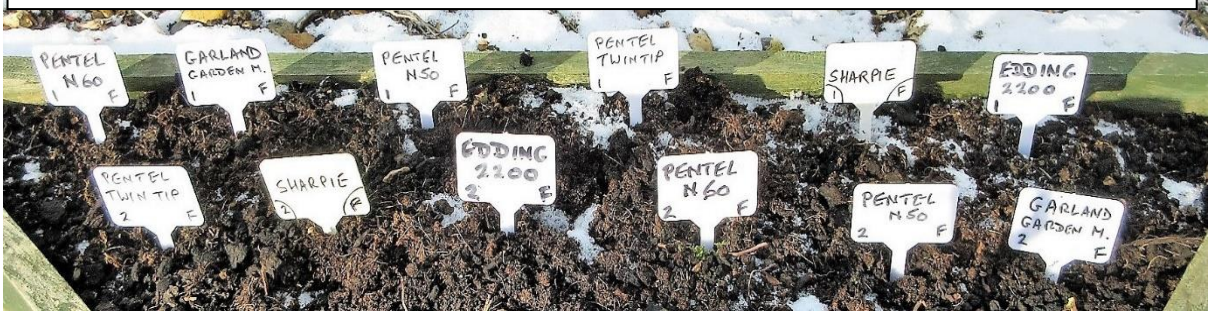
Evaluation of black 'permanent' markers: an update and a new 'Best Buy'

Avid readers of this Newsletter will recall that in 2020/21 I evaluated several black markers which claimed to be '**permanent**'. Despite 'permanent' being defined as '**lasting for a long time or for ever**' (Cambridge Dictionary) most markers failed dismally to live up to their name with poor legibility even after only 6 months. (Thought: can a job lasting a few months be described now as 'permanent'? Presumably 'yes' if you work for a stationery company. I digress….).

There was a clear winner in 2020/21 – the Pentel Twin Tip. This was the only marker with which writing on plastic labels could be said to be still clearly legible after one year. Writing for all other markers (Edding 300, Edding 2200, Nice Day, Sharpie, Texta 700, Tiger) was virtually illegible, especially on labels exposed to the sun. In the name of science (and to get more evidence in case of litigation…..) I repeated the experiment in 2021/22 with some of the same (Pentel Twin Tip, Sharpie, Edding 2200) and some different markers (Pentel N50, Pentel N60, Garland Garden Marker).

As before, text was written on both sides of white plastic plant labels placed on my allotment at Harpenden on 11 February 2021, with one side of label facing due south (S) and the other side facing due north (N). Two labels were used for each marker. Legibility of writing was assessed on 24 January 2022 and photos taken.

Front, S facing side of labels on 11 February 2021, at <u>start</u> of experiment



Results

- There was a new 'winner' – the **Garland Garden Marker** (see photo). This was the only marker with which writing on labels exposed to the sun (S facing) could be said to be still clearly

Front, <u>S facing side of labels</u> on 24 January 2021, <u>11</u>

legible. Last year's 'winner', the Pentel Twin Tip, was second-best, but legibility was much poorer – but still better than all the other markers.

- As in my previous experiment, there was a big difference in legibility between N and S facing sides of the plastic labels. Writing legibility was much poorer on the side facing the sun (S) and better on the side never exposed to direct sunlight (N). The Garland Garden Marker was best, with the Sharpie performing particularly poorly.

Conclusions

- ***<u>The Garland Garden Marker was by far the best marker tested.</u> It can be used on plastic, timber, rubber and steel according to the (rather excessive) packaging. A new 'best buy'. Ayletts sell them (£2-99) or they can be bought online from Garlands:***
  https://www.garlandproducts.com/black-waterproof-garden-marker.html

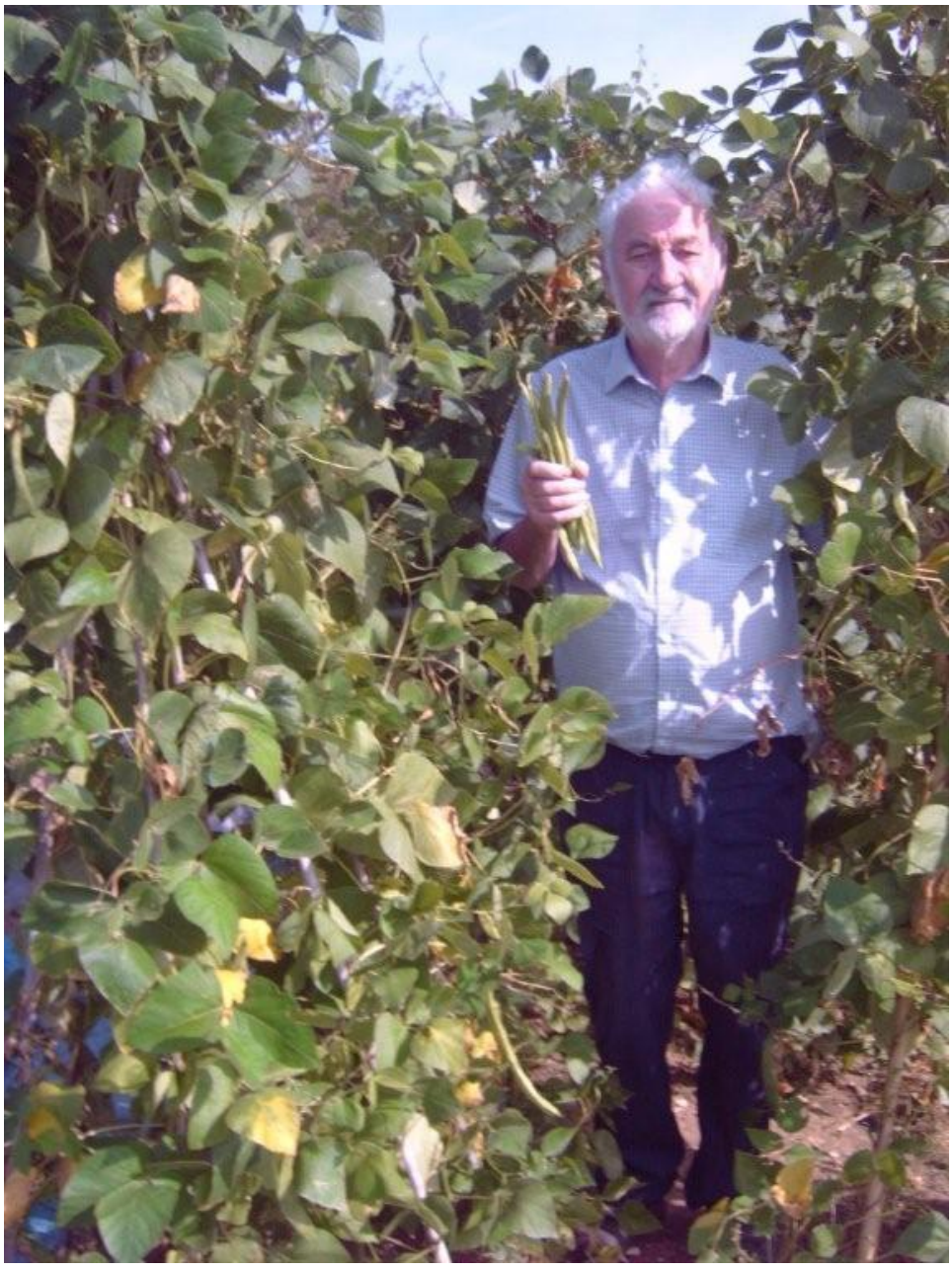
  Perhaps the Dark Lane shop should get some in (hint, hint).

- ***Regardless of marker you use, ensure that the side of the label with writing on faces north, or at least is not in direct sunlight.***

Stephen Moss (Topstreet plot 27)

[Editor's note: the author, tongue in cheek, has suggested delaying publication of this Newsletter until our Dark Lane shop has sold out of Sharpie markers (which performed poorly). What? And compromise our scientific integrity and credibility?!]

Full of Beans



2021 was a good year for runner beans. My four wigwams, the ground previously prepared with two wheelbarrow loads of manure, gave a bumper crop. We were still eating them at Christmas - the beans that is.

Bob Harry (Piggottshill plot 66)

Musings of a Site Rep

Site-repping has its rewards, though I can't think of any just now. Unless we include the benefits of seeing the different ways in which our members successfully grow crops. The job involves a lot of walking round the site, PH in my case, often pushing a mower, while envying (and hopefully learning from) some of the gardening successes, but also discovering some of the problems. Problems can be solved. I will mention some here, which may be relatively trivial, but worth a bit of discussion. This selection concerns overgrown fruit trees, composting, and stony ground.

Pruning. The allotment site should be presentable and easily accessible. So don't forget that fruit trees can be pruned! It is of no concern to a site rep whether or not your trees are productive, but we do notice the nuisance of overhanging branches from untended trees (and thorny fruit bushes). Pruned trees mean that we can mow paths and wander round in safety, without risk of eye damage, and neighbours can do their work without having to crouch to avoid overhangs.

There is a correct way to prune, depending on the type of fruit, but I find there is no need to be especially careful or neat. If necessary, be brutal. Just make sure that branches don't obstruct paths or overhang neighbours' plots, and the fruit is not too high to reach. It seems there is no strict rule about timing, but apples and pears are usually done after leaf fall, often with an additional pruning in summer (when really serious growers also thin out clusters of fruit). Late autumn pruning means that twigs and branches can be put onto the Guy Fawkes bonfire – why else was Guy Fawkes Night invented?

Plums and cherries should be pruned only in the growing season though, usually in summer (to avoid risk of silver-leaf disease), or in spring if necessary for training. Being aware of the silver-leaf risk, I once did a major pruning of an overgrown plum in autumn anyway, after taking over a new plot, and sealed the cut ends with Arbrex or something similar (available in our shop). The plum became productive again after a couple of years (flowering in the photo).

And if you have hazels that you don't harvest for nuts or coppice stakes, self-sown or otherwise, I suggest removal altogether – they grow like crazy and encourage "tree rats" (grey squirrels), who will eat all the nuts anyway. If you plan to plant new fruit trees, make sure they are near the middle of the plot, not near to the edge, and have the required dwarfing rootstock.

Quick composting. There are lots of plastic compost bins on our site, many of them empty and/or unused, often without trapdoors or lids (which might be found wind-blown not too far away). That is a shame, because they are expensive and *very* useful. I am not suggesting that anyone should buy new ones, however – all that plastic that would probably never be recycled! But if they are there, already bought or inherited from previous tenants, why not use them to the full? Often you will see a large pile of weedy soil next to such a bin, rapidly attracting a population of bindweed, rhizomatous grasses and other nasties. Simple solution: put the waste straight into the bin, not onto the ground, and especially *not* onto hedge bottoms or paths (yes, some people actually do that!). Then you'll have more space for cultivation, and no weedy mountain that will last forever, or until it annoys a successor tenant. After a while there will be ready-made fertiliser to shovel onto your plot, or to use instead of something bought in a heavy plastic non-decomposable sack. Thick weed roots, old grass and rhizomes will take a couple of years to decompose, unlike soft green waste which can take just a few months.

Mixing soft green material such as weeds, grass cuttings, and kitchen waste (plant-based only) with the tougher stuff will speed up decomposition, which must be thorough. When the bin's contents look like crumbly soil, it is safe to use. The bins are quite entertaining too: you'll be amazed how the volume diminishes and lets you keep filling them up month after month, and you'll wonder where those thousands of tiny earthworms came from. Remember to keep the bins covered and reasonably well sealed (not forgetting a heavy brick to hold down the lid, with a plot number painted on it just in case). It's a good idea to have more than one bin in use, so that the contents of one can rot down while you fill another. If you have only one, it should ideally have a removable trapdoor near the bottom so that you can shovel out the lower composted layers while the upper layers are still undecomposed. That's a compromise, since the ones without trapdoors seem to be slightly more efficient. Make sure that the interior is in contact with the soil, so that worms and other creatures and microbes can get access and join in the composting process. Even if you have this kind of quick composting equipment, you might also wish to make an old-style, slow compost heap to provide a snug winter home for hedgehogs. So why not keep your bins and make just a small wooden-framed compost container for hedgehog housing (and long-term compost production as a bonus)?

Flint. It is not only piles of muddy roots and rhizomes that are allowed to accumulate in the corners of some plots but, even worse, piles of flints. Most of our soil is full of flints, though unevenly distributed (my plot is exceptionally well endowed). Flints collected up and left in piles become a real nuisance when plots change hands, since meanwhile they will have become an unmanageable reservoir for weeds, especially those rhizomatous couch-like grasses.

So what to do with flints? Best option: leave them in the soil, assume that they will help drainage through the heavy clay, and enjoy the odd shapes they cause in root vegetables. Collected up, they make good paths, especially if laid on so-called weed-proof thick plastic (which will be penetrated eventually), or drenched occasionally with weed killer. Flint paths are more durable than the currently fashionable wood-chip paths, which have the advantage of being easily dug-in if the paths are no longer needed. It seems to me that some of the firm grass paths on PH are actually laid on flint layers, which pop out when paths are encroached on. If you really want to remove your flints (a thankless job that will never end!) but don't want to make use of them, then I can only suggest taking them to the rubble container at the recycling centre.

What a Year!

Our weather becomes queerer. That was well demonstrated in 2021, with drought, intense rain and late frosts - it seems we had everything except those nearly forgotten snow drifts of years ago. And it all affected the performance of the year's crops, and their pests and diseases, at least on my plots in their sheltered corner of PH. This about last year – so no mention of the February storm of 2022!

Despite, or because of, the cold spring, there was an abundance of soft fruit (berries and currants). The nightly frosts during April should perhaps have kept insect pollinators away from the flowering fruit trees, or even killed off the flowers. But no, the crops were reasonable or good, helped by a slight reduction in brown rot (*Monilinia*), which had recently been increasing, and an even greater reduction in plum moth and possibly of apple and pear pests. Allium leaf miner also seems to have taken a hit, with less early damage, especially to leeks (which suffered later on though). I suspect that weather, rather than leaf miner, was responsible for the hopeless state of my onions, but it's hard to tell because I never really got the hang of growing them. Among the other usual pests, even black fly were not abundant enough to be a nuisance on my beans (and apparently not on those of others – see Bob Harry's note on his remarkable runner bean crop).

But there was no avoiding the slimy peril – slugs. They must have been breeding in a frenzy during all those warmer-than-usual wet days. After a few weeks away in June-July, I returned to find them crawling all over my favourite cabbages (Primo 2). Nevertheless, after much spreading of slug pellets and removal by hand, many of the cabbages continued to grow and had firm interiors that were perfectly edible and tasty after the disgusting outer layers were chopped off. There was even plenty of spare to make a decent store of sauerkraut. Despite my early scepticism, the currently-available "safe" slug pellets seem to do a reasonable job, at ground level anyway. Above ground, the climbing molluscs, mostly snails, can only be picked or flicked off.

Damaged cabbage, protected from pigeons, but not from slugs – yet!

Slug pellets were not necessary on my potatoes though. I mostly grow an old-fashioned, reasonably slug-resistant variety (Desirée), on which any slug damage usually begins where there is already scab. But a wet June meant that there was almost no scab.

So what about potato blight last year? In last year's *PSF* I suggested how I tried to avoid blight by cutting off the tops of my potato plants as soon as they begin to turn brown, in theory preventing any blight spores being washed down from diseased leaves to infect the tubers. 2021 turned out to be a year to test that. Warm showery conditions in July seemed to be suitable for the beginnings of blight. Sure enough, there were a few patches on leaves of my plants that seemed to be blight. I wasn't sure, but picked a few off for disposal (NOT to my compost bin!). Since it still seemed to be slowly spreading, I checked that the tubers had reached a reasonable size and then cut off all the tops to ground level and took them away. Then I was able to harvest tubers as needed, digging up the last of them in late September. Most were like pink goose eggs, free of scab and slugs. I threw away only two small tubers that had soft, dark patches, probably blight. The presence of blight was confirmed by the state of my tomatoes. I made the mistake of putting some spare tomato plants too close to the potatoes, and had to pull them all up before any fruits ripened. The main planting, further away, was more successful, but I had to look for and remove any fruits with developing blight symptoms, and picked most of the healthy fruits just as they began to ripen, to finish off on an indoor window sill.

No doubt next year's weather and crop behaviour will be entirely different. I suppose repeat performances each year would make allotmenting much less interesting.

My thanks to the contributors of this spring's edition of *PSF*, from whom I learned plenty. Happy allotmenting!

Geoff Bateman (editor; Piggottshill plot 135)

Office Holders and Committee Members of S.H.A.G.S. (updated Feb 22)

Committee	Name	Email	Tel. No.
President	Vacancy		
Chair	Mike Cobley	mikecobley@hotmail.com	767782
Treasurer	Carole Pamphlett	carolepamphlett@hotmail.co.uk	email only
Secretary	Gill Hicks	allotsec@outlook.com	07961 372834
Deputy Chair	Roger Glanville	rglanville@virginmedia.com	761912
Lettings Secretary	Alex Davis	allotlet@gmail.com	07850 332117
	Jim Machin	allotlet3@gmail.com	762856
Database Manager	Alex Davis	allotlet@gmail.com	07850 332117
	Jim Machin	allotlet3@gmail.com	762856
Communications Officer/ Webmaster	Rod Cooley	rod.cooley@ntlworld.com	620682
Shop/Distribution Manager	Vacancy		
Machinery Manager	Roger White	white.roger@btinternet.com	762377
Newsletter Editor	Geoff Bateman	glb47@tiscali.co.uk	07423 041299
Awards Officer	Linda Gahagan	lindamgahagan@gmail.com	765815
Publicity Officer	Jane Keech	jkeech@aol.com	07702 906168

Site Reps	Rep. Name	Email	Tel. No.
Aldwickbury	Hazel Upton	rguhu77@hotmail.com	712131
	Roger White	white.roger@btinternet.com	762377
	Richard Mottram	richard_mottram@yahoo.co.uk	07905 003736
	Tom Chichester-Miles	thomas.chichester-miles@ntlworld.com	07971 353375
Churchfield	Keith Davison	k.davison@sky.com	07740 411455
Cross Lane	Jenny Stevenson	alanandjenny3@btinternet.com	712921
	Vacancy		
Harpenden Rise	Marcia Dorey	marciadorey@yahoo.co.uk	712250
	Roger Dorey		
Oakley Road	Rod Cooley	rod.cooley@ntlworld.com	07913 061169

Site Reps	Rep. Name	Email	Tel. No.
Piggotshill	Mike Cobley	mikecobley@hotmail.com	767782
	Fraser Gordon	frasermgordon4@gmail.com	07957 948011
	Geoff Bateman	glb47@tiscali.co.uk	07423 041299
	Syd Marvell	n/a	07880 877192
Sibley Avenue	Vacancy		
Topstreet Way	John Myres	john.myres1@ntlworld.com	07981 142099

Sudoku Solution

A	I	O	N	U	R	E	G	B
R	U	G	O	B	E	N	A	I
N	E	B	G	I	A	O	U	R
U	O	R	E	N	B	A	I	G
E	G	A	I	R	O	U	B	N
B	N	I	U	A	G	R	E	O
G	B	N	R	E	U	I	O	A
O	R	E	A	G	I	B	N	U
I	A	U	B	O	N	G	R	E

The hint given in the original puzzle refers to the possibility of substituting the letters for numbers 1 to 9 in a consistent manner. For example, in this puzzle each of the 'E's become 1, 'G's become 2, etc. following the given letters. The puzzle can then be solved in the usual and familiar way and once completed, the letters restored to reveal the solution.

Note: A grid could be helpful to record the substitutions as below:

A	E	I	O	U	B	G	N	R
6	1	9	7	8	3	2	4	5