

Site Profile

Haslemere Allotments

Haslemere allotments are situated behind the houses in Haslemere Avenue near Boston Manor station. We have 72 plots most of which are now split into half plots and 120 plot holders working them. There is a wide range of ages and experience and so there is always someone on hand to offer advice and help to fellow plot holders. We have a lengthy waiting list and are just starting to place people that have been waiting since 2010; hopefully they will think it's worth the wait

Our site is owned by the charity Pathways and last year, following the departure of the Plot Manager, a group of plot holders from Haslemere and our sister site at Northfields decided to approach Pathways regarding the possibility of becoming partially self-managed. It was agreed that the two sites would best be managed separately and at the beginning of the year we were in a position to take this forward and arranged our first AGM to elect our Committee to run Haslemere. We had a great turnout of plot holders willing to support us in this endeavour. Meetings have continued with Pathways and we are hopeful that a formal agreement for partial self-management will be in place soon.



Although the main purpose of setting up a Committee was to organise the self-management of the site, we also arranged our first Community day to start to clear one of our overgrown plots. It's amazing how much work can be done in a couple of hours by a willing group of volunteers and several new beds were dug and a shed painted for the new tenant.

We have organised a couple of plant/seed swap events since. Both went well with

plenty of people bringing their plants to swap for something different or for plants they hadn't managed to grow themselves - we plan to do this again next year. The Committee has also arranged for deliveries of bark chips which are being used as quickly as they can be delivered, pathways have never looked so neat and tidy (that's the paths and not our landlords!!). We also benefit from having a trading hut next to the allotments where we can buy compost and canes and only have to get the wheelbarrow out rather than the car to deliver.

Sonia Pearce.
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