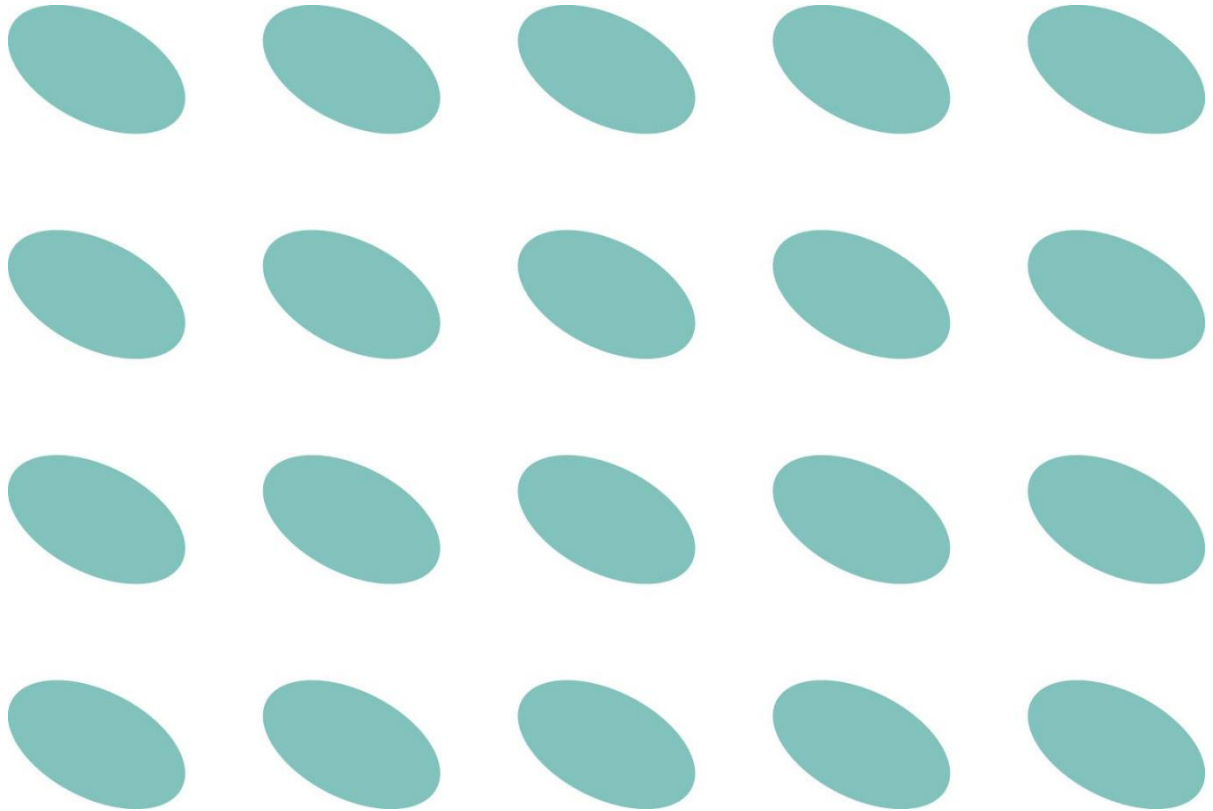


Allotments Seminar:

'Lockdowns and leaks' – the growing importance of allotments

Wednesday 7 October 2020



This event is kindly sponsored by



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Please Note – Presentations will be available online following the event, provided we have permission to distribute them



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10:00 Welcome and Introduction

Panel 1

The State of the Market Results on Allotments 2020

- Covid-19 and the impact on allotments
- Results from the survey
- The future role of allotments

Wayne Priestley, Principal Advisor, APSE

The Importance of having an Allotment Strategy

- Why do I need a strategy?
- What should my strategy include?
- The benefits a strategy can bring

Mel Henley, APSE Associate

Derby City: Self-managed urban allotment sites

- Introduction and overview of allotments in Derby
- Self-management model – benefits and risks
- Collaborative working and ongoing support for self-management sites

Ruth Bucknall, Derby City Council

From compost to computers- digitising the management of allotments

Colony Allotments Management Software is a powerful app that helps you to accurately record and manage every aspect of your allotment management.

From inspections to invoicing, to tenancies and waiting list applications, Colony allows unlimited users to access one accessible, central and secure database to help you stay on top of legislation and your obligations as a service provider.

Peter Hollis, MD, MCPC Systems

Audience question and answer session

11:15 Virtual coffee break

Panel 2

Developing new and refurbishing existing allotment sites – A success story

- Looking at meeting growing demands
- Gaining funding and developing partnership
- What we have achieved and future aims

Annie Surtees Greenspace and Street scene Manager, Salford City Council

The Organic allotment - how to get nature on your side

- The key principles of organic growing
- The steps you can take towards more sustainable food growing.
- How to work with natural environmental processes to sustain good yields of healthy food.

Anton Rosenfeld, Garden Organic

Allotments and Biodiversity – Gardening in harmony with Nature

- Identifying the opportunities for biodiversity
- What and how will we attract flora and fauna?
- The benefits gained through working with nature.

Sandy Paterson, Natural Environment Officer (Growing Spaces), Glasgow City Council

Developing a Community Food Hub - an urban horticulture hub that joins up inclusive community gardening with commercial organic food production – a case study Woodbank Community Food Hub, Stockport

- How the idea came about.
- What exactly is a community food hub?
- The benefits gained

Chris Walsh, The Kindling Trust

Audience question and answer session

13:00 Event close

About the event

The strange times we now find ourselves in has led many to reassess their lifestyles. From being very much a 24/7 consumer driven culture, many are now adopting a more reflective approach where personal mental and physical well-being are becoming more important than material wealth.

Part of that reassessment involves our long overdue reconnection with the natural world. During the current pandemic, our local greenspaces have become sanctuaries for many when other leisure pursuits have been closed to us.

Gardening and growing our own food, has increased in popularity as the restrictions of lock-down have taken their toll. Nowhere has this been more apparent in the huge increase in the demand for allotments.

Figures released by the National Allotment Society (NAS) revealed that of the councils which responded to a recent survey, over 40% reported a "significant uplift" in applications to join waiting lists, with a 300% increase in one case

This increase in demand is set against a 65% decline in the total area of allotment land available caused by the growing demand for new housing land.

This worrying figure is made all the more stark, when we consider recent figures show that with regards to personal greenspace, as much as one in eight of the UK population have no access to a garden, the figures are even worse in London where one in five do not access to a garden.

Perhaps now is the time to take stock of the current state of our allotments and look at how local authorities and allotment groups across the UK are: managing their current allotment sites, introducing new allotment sites and making allotment sites more sustainable and environmentally friendly. The seminar will also look at how some are even introducing digital apps to manage these valuable assets.

Finally, we will see how some organisations have gone one stage further and are developing community food hubs to help address issues such as food security, healthier eating, community cohesion and the promotion of organic food growing.

It is against this backdrop of increasing interest and demand that APSE's 2020 Allotment Seminar intends to highlight best practice and innovation to secure the long-term future of these valuable environmental and community assets.

Therefore, the seminar is a **MUST ATTEND EVENT** for those officers and members who want to look at new ways of dealing with allotment and community food growing issues.

About the sponsor



MCPC is dedicated to delivering software solutions that modernise, optimise and streamline workflows and operations. They have over 20 years of experience of building specialised software for asset and green space managers in local governments, non-profit institutions and their contracting bodies. The company develops and supports several off the shelf products for both asset management (parks, playgrounds, trees and cemeteries) and allotment management. In addition, they can provide bespoke software solutions and development services.

<https://www.colonycloud.co.uk/>

Attendance list

Title	First Name	Surname	Position	Authority
	Graham	Keith	Performance and Development Manager	Aberdeen City Council
	John	McConnell	Parks and Cemeteries Manager	Ards and North Down Borough Council
	Stephen	Daye	Parks and Cemeteries Officer	Ards and North Down Borough Council
	Jonny	Bettes	Horticultural Officer	Ards and North Down Borough Council
	Alison	Tickle	Environmental Operations Manager	Ashford Borough Council
	Kathy	Kramer	Technical Services Officer	Basildon Borough Council
	Gerard	Parry	Environmental Information Officer	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Ed	Alexander	Contract Manager	Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council
	Christopher	Clarke	Parks Officer	Brent London Borough
	Bruce	Riach	Allotment Officer	Brighton and Hove City Council
	Janet	Hathway	Allotments Officer	Bristol City Council
	Keith	Chant	Parks Assets and Projects Manager	Bristol City Council
	Celia	Hart	Allotments Officer	Cardiff Council
	Kim	Fitzmaurice	Senior Green Spaces Officer	Carlisle City Council
	Lee	George	Open Spaces Officer	City of Lincoln Council
	Richard	Wiltshire	Secretary (retired)	Dartford Road Allotments Association
	Amy	Trower	Project Officer	Denbighshire County Council
	Garry	Davies	Countryside Officer	Denbighshire County Council
	Susan	Doherty	Community Development Co-ordinator	Derry City and Strabane District Council
	Graham	Newsome	Assistant Head of Parks	Douglas Borough Council
	Mark	Farren	Manager (Pest Control, Allotment & Civic Pride)	Durham County Council
	James	Waterton	Parks Development Officer	Enfield London Borough
	Sarah	D'Arcy	Parks Development Officer	Enfield London Borough
	Daniel	Hayward-Smith	Allotments Manager	Exeter City Council
	Jane	Richardson	Parks Development Officer	Gedling Borough Council

Title	First Name	Surname	Position	Authority
	Lee	Williams	Grounds Maintenance Coordinator	Great Aycliffe Town Council
	Kayleigh	Hulme	Open Space Officer	Halton Borough Council
	Katy	Sherman	Communications and Engagement Officer	Hart District Council
	Matthew	Pearce	Project Officer - Allotments	Hartlepool Borough Council
	Matthew	Appleby	Deputy Editor	Horticulture Week
	Nicky	Baker	Administration Assistant	Isle Of Wight Council
	Jerry	Gutwin	Parks Services Manager	Islington London Borough
	Stefanie	Gray	Engagement & development officer	Lancaster City Council
	Brian	Stafford	Project & Development Manager	Leicester City Council
	Jude	Applewhite	Allotment Team Manager	Leicester City Council
	Paul	Black	Allotment Team Leader	Leicester City Council
	Gail	Stott	Allotments Lead, Parks Service	Manchester City Council
Cllr	Amanda	Fisher	Portfolio Holder Community Safety and Wellbeing	Mansfield District Council
	Alison	Diver	Growing Communities Officer	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
	Habebur	Rahman	Parks and Open Spaces Officer	Newham London Borough
	Alison	Bailey	Allotment Officer	North Tyneside MBC
	Angella	Gray	Team Leader for Playsites and Allotments	North Tyneside MBC
	Emily	Stewart-Rayner	Allotments officer and parks assistant	Norwich City Council
Cllr	Robert	Boswell	Cabinet Member for Environment	Preston City Council
	Rebecca	Headford	Programme Support Officer	Redditch Borough Council
	Carol	Cooke	Parks Officer	Scottish Borders Council
	Rachel	Northover	Team Leader - Community and Resources	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
	Joanne	Abbassi	Cemeteries & Services Officer	South Derbyshire District Council
	Mary	Jones	Community Spaces Officer	South Gloucestershire Council
	Lynn	Carr	Amenity Services Manager	South Lanarkshire Council
	Alastair	Coxon	Outdoor Facilities Assistant	South Tyneside MBC
	Sue	Ashdown	Allotments Officer	Southampton City Council
	Jacques	Gain	Green Space Development Officer	Southend-on-Sea Council

Title	First Name	Surname	Position	Authority
	Joel	Gainsford	Green Spaces Development Officer	Stevenage Borough Council
	Angela	Fenton	Valuation Assistant	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Andrew	Ruddock	Cemeteries Superintendent	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Emily	Fox	Management Trainee	Sunderland City Council
	Chris	Mennear	Management Trainee	Sunderland City Council
	Richard	Jones	Public Health Programme Development Officer	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
	Dan	Massey	Head Ranger	West Lancashire Borough Council
	Neil	Garnett	Local Area Team Leader	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Dawn	O'Brien	Parks Development & Engagement Officer	Wolverhampton City Council

Wayne Priestley APSE



Wayne Priestley is the Principal Advisor for the APSE environmental suite and is also responsible for the APSE Northern Region.

Wayne's role is to act as the Principal Advisor for the following advisory groups: Refuse and Street cleansing, Parks and Ground Maintenance, Cemeteries and Crematoria and Environmental Health & Trading Standards, as well as organising the APSE Northern Region Best Practice Forums.

Wayne joined APSE following a long career in local government. Wayne has already been involved in a number of environment related projects including the development of the new Land Audit Management System known as LAMS and is contributing to the development of National Litter Strategy for England and providing information to support APSE's contribution to the Government's Parks Action Group.

Mel Henley APSE Associate



Mel is the Managing Director of AA Environment, a consultancy firm that specialises in environmental services, and in particular within the local government field. Mel undertakes work as an Associate of APSE (The Association for Public Service Excellence). He is an experienced senior manager with 30 years of extensive experience across a wide range of services. Initially with a background in both the operational and strategic aspects of parks he has become a leading, nationally-recognised authority in this field, demonstrated by current and previous roles that have included:

- member of the Green Flag National Strategic Board, experienced green flag judge and trainer of judges
- member of the CLG National parks advisory panel (This included advising on and assisting in the formulation of national policies for parks and open spaces)
- Regional and National Britain in Bloom judge
- This has reflected his status in the industry as some of the above roles have been through the election by peers in the parks industry.
- Mel has for many years now widened his base of experience to include other service areas and has worked successfully in a range of authorities from London Boroughs and Cities to rural authorities, understanding the diverse pressures within these environments.

Ruth Bucknall Derby City Council



Ruth has worked in Local Government for 18 years at three different authorities. Her first roles were in public rights of way, then in parks management and for the last 10 years specifically as an allotments officer for Derby City Council.

Ruth works three days a week and her role involves managing the Council's 21 allotment sites and providing an allotment service for the city. Ruth hosts a Derby Allotment Network Forum which is open to all allotment sites in the city, both Council and private sites, to share best practice and to provide support for volunteers.

She has worked as a volunteer for various organisations including TCV, the Derby Youth Offending Service and currently for Derby Museums.

Peter Hollis MCPC Systems



Peter Hollis is an IT leader who has more than 20 years' experience of delivering data-centric technology solutions. With a background in Finance he has worked with a range of organisations, which includes large multi-national organisations, local government authorities, and non-profit institutions.

He is both the owner and Managing Director of the Kogitas Group, which has technology teams that are based both in the UK and Croatia. The Group develop and support a number of software products – one of which is Colony - the UK's leading allotment management software.

In his spare time, he can be found officiating at UK swimming meets or watching his two boys play sport.

Annie Surtees Salford City Council

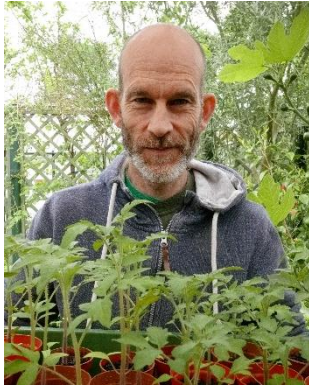


Annie's horticultural career started in commercial greenhouses and market gardens. With a firm base of youth and community work she jumped at an opportunity to work and develop a community garden and growing project in London.

Opportunities to further her passion for engaging people and wildlife led to work with the RSPB and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust developing community greening projects within the urban environment. Annie joined Salford City Council in 1994 to develop a contaminated derelict land site into a country park. Taking the site from dereliction to Local Nature Reserve Status and green flag award.

Annie's current role encompasses strategic green space management and development, grounds maintenance, allotments, arboriculture, and street cleansing. Away from the office Annie can often be found immersed on her allotment and garden where a couple of hours digging or planting is just what's needed to get away from it all.

Anton Rosenfeld Garden Organic



Anton has worked as knowledge officer and researcher at Garden Organic since 2003. During that time, he has delivered a range of projects involving citizen science and training communities. He is an experienced vegetable grower and has specialist interests in soils and vegetable growing.

He also has a passion for exploring the food crops grown by multicultural communities in the UK, and has in-depth experience of growing and cooking many of these plants. He writes regularly for 'Grow Your Own Magazine' and 'Kitchen Garden' magazine.

Sandy Paterson Glasgow City Council



Sandy Paterson is the Natural Environment Officer (Growing Spaces) at Glasgow City Council. His remit covers Food Growing in the City with a particular focus on allotments. Sandy has been in this role since 2012.

In this time his team have worked closely with stakeholders across the City to develop the Food Growing Strategy for Glasgow, which was adopted in Sept 2020. He also represents Glasgow City Council on the Allotments Tripartite Group comprising of officers from the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Scottish Allotments and Garden Society. The group works collaboratively to develop guidance notes associated with Part 9 Allotments of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and to monitor the implementation of Food Growing Strategies.

Sandy holds a keen interest in the potential of localised food production working in conjunction with nature.

Chris Walsh Kindling Trust



Chris is an accomplished social entrepreneur and has helped establish two of Manchester's biggest and best-loved social enterprises; Bridge 5 Mill eco-centre (along with co-founder Helen) and Fairfield Environment Services. He then went on to co-found Kindling in 2007, when "a group of like-minded people came together to explore solutions to our increasingly industrialised food system and the health and economic inequities it produces."

He is a director of Bridge 5 Mill and is a Trustee of the Fairfield Environment Trust, which supports organisations making Greater Manchester greener, healthier and more equitable.