



CNAA

Cottonmill and Nunnery Allotment Association (CNAA) was established in 1994 to support plot holders on its four allotment sites in St Albans: Cottonmill; Nunnery 1; Nunnery 2; Sopwell Mill.

It provides assistance to St Albans Council in managing the sites and improving facilities for plot holders.

Directly for members, it co-ordinates affiliation to relevant bodies, insurance cover, procurement opportunities and social events.

What has Lockdown Life been like for your group?

For many members of CNAA, their allotment provided a safe place to go for their daily exercise during the first lockdown and for many who were working from home, it provided an opportunity to spend time tending their plot other than just at the weekend.

Growing their own food meant that people were less reliant on deliveries or visits to shops. However, the two lockdowns later in the year have been blighted by very wet weather and this reduced the opportunity to spend time and get exercise at the allotments.

Allotment Lockdown Experiences

Lockdown Limerick by Liz, Nunnery One

Lockdown was on, on Nunnery One
For exercise with endeavour
I composter and mowed, tilled and sowed
And my plot looked the best it had ever!

My allotment gave me a
framework for my day and a
sense of community when I
wasn't seeing anyone or going
anywhere.

Janet on Cottonmill

Due to being at home since March, Pete
had time to really go for it this year.

(I did my bit... getting the seeds planted,
trimming/looking after the fruit bushes &
cooking the produce!)

The freezer is full of soft fruits, stewed
apple and rhubarb and lots of diced
pumpkin.

I've made apple and raspberry muffins;
pumpkin soup, pumpkin pie, numerous
curries, and not forgetting raspberry gin,
rhubarb gin, and will make the spiced
blackberry vodka - ready from Christmas!

Val at Sopwell Mill

At the beginning of the
year I had an assistant
on the plot as I am less
able to do all the work.
This was good as I had
to isolate in March.

This did not help with
my capabilities as it
coincided with an
increase with my
asthma, and my joints.

However Sheila has
been working the plot
and I have managed to
get down once or twice.
Now they have cut my
scooter access on the
path by London Road
and I can't get down
there.

My plot has extra
things put on it when
Jim moved out and it
does look a bit untidy. I
hope that I can get
down again soon.

John on Cottonmill

