



The last 12 months have been an uncertain and worrying time for us all, so in spite of the fear and grief many of us have experienced it is good to be able to share some good news. We started a gardening project about 3 years ago and your support has transformed it into a vibrant community group well beyond gardening.

## THINGS WE ACCOMPLISHED



- We have recruited 7 new gardeners who are now growing food in our allotments
- Working with Old Tree Brewery and their Compost Club we now host a state of the art Compost Station which collects compost from over 50 members and supplies them and the garden with our own compost



- We had a grant of £1380 from the Estate Development Budget for a roll out of wooden planters across the area . There are now new growing spaces at Thornsedale, Albion House, Grove Bank and Saxonbury. We still have a further 3 wooden beds to place so contact us if you would like one.
- Gardeners Nawal and Michael continue to expand their garden at Grove Bank and Graham is re-landscaping a plot at Albion House.
- We have begun a process of supplying container grown trees. Apple,nectarine and peach trees are already in place.
- Good contacts have been made with other organisations in the city. Brighton & Hove Greenspace Forum, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and The Trust for Developing Communities have all made valuable contributions to what we do, and we are working closely with our neighbours the Phoenix Residents Group.
- The Chair of Tarner Community Forum, John McPhilips has retired. We thank him for his many years of dedicated work. His retirement left a gap in how some local funds are managed . Albion Community Association is now acting as a host for The Healthy Neighbourhood Fund and we hold restricted funds from the Tarner Community Forum to be used for future locally based events. Funds that were part of The Albion Hill Residence Association are now reserved funds for a community hub at Thornsedale
- We have started the process of making a Community Hub on the ground floor of Thornsedale. We have already engaged with the wider community to create a Community Cafe , storage space for a local food bank, a repair/recycle workshop, a room for meetings, and a pottery studio.
- Our applications to the Council's Carbon Reduction Resilience Fund have been agreed, giving us £3500 to buy a cargo tricycle and £4500 to equip our planned Repair/Recycle Workshop with basic tools and machinery.



- Covid has had a profound effect on us all. The provision of arbour seating, benches and parasols have made a welcoming and safe area. Brooke Mead Extra Care Flats Residents were unable to see their relatives for endless weeks but once restrictions eased in early summer we offered the Community Garden as a safe meeting space. We witnessed tearful reunions and postponed family birthday parties . Green-spaces are vital to our well-being so the garden was open during the current lock down giving residents access to fresh air in a peaceful contemplative space .

## THINGS PLANNED IN THE YEAR AHEAD

- Thanks to a generous donation by Cllr. Amanda Evans we have set aside funding to put community noticeboards on the garden wall keeping everyone informed. We will also be putting small notices around the garden area explaining what is growing and how the different areas are being used.



- Much has to be done to complete the refurbishment of the Thornsdale Community Hub but we hope to get a partial opening of the repair/recycle workshop. The Community Hub project will take a few years to complete and we hope to have your input, Please contact us at [associationalbion@gmail.com](mailto:associationalbion@gmail.com) or by text on 07434 665029 if you want to be involved or have any questions.

- In May 1961 the first block of flats in the Albion Hill Estate were opened and we had hoped to have a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event to celebrate. This may not happen this year but we have reserved funds so we can come together to mark the occasion as a community when conditions allow it.

- Working with Albion Community Garden and the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund has introduced us to the many green-spaces and community gardens in central Brighton. We hope to be able to arrange a Garden Trail this summer. It will be a good opportunity to see the work of gardeners across the area and to have a family fun day out discovering what is on your doorstep.
- We will still offer all our neighbours the use of Albion Community Garden. If you haven't visited it yet why not! It is a peaceful oasis in the middle of our concrete city that is very definitely yours. It is a meeting space, a reading room and if you don't have a garden of your own it is a way to catch the gardening bug. Looking forward to see you soon.

## GETTING INVOLVED

Be a part of Albion Life. We need your help as there is much to be done but a whole lot more to be enjoyed. You may have the skills to help us with our social media, want to learn about gardening , be part of our planning groups, discover how you can help your neighbours or simply want to find friendship . We are here -

e-mail : [associationalbion@gmail.com](mailto:associationalbion@gmail.com) Text : 07434 665029

Drop a note in the post box on the garden gate

or just say Hi when you see us in the garden

You can meet us at our -

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**1pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

This will be a Zoom meeting and you are welcome to attend  
or ask for a digital recording of the meeting