

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

March 2020
Issue 72

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"Speeding - Letters are now going out to relevant plot holders direct from WTC due to verbal abuse received by onsite committee members."

A new look for the Newsletter

Editor: Mike McNamara – E14

New Look Newsletter

Welcome to our 'New Look' Newsletter. After a number of years with the same design, we thought it time for a change and have revamped the newsletter to incorporate a more modern looking design. We hope you like the look of it and of course we would welcome any feedback that that you have about design.

Notices

Allotment Plots – New Tenants & Waiting List

There have been 12 new tenants since 1st January; the waiting list is currently at 15.

Allotment Site - Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Don't forget that the AGM will be held on Monday 23rd March 2020 at the Oakwood Centre at 7.30pm.

The committee is looking to all Tenants for their input to help improve the site. Send suggestions, to the normal email address. We will issue a Special Bulletin about the AGM shortly.

Bonfires

From January 2020, new Woodley Town Council (WTC) rules mean that NO bonfires will be allowed onsite after the 1st May 2020 until the 1st Oct. 2020.

March – Some To Do's

March is the month when things start to get moving. If the weather stays cold but otherwise reasonable, you can start early by using cloches and fleece. However, keep an eye out for any of those late frosts. So with that in mind, here are some jobs that you could be getting on with during March.

- March is a good time to establish an asparagus bed if you are starting from crowns, make sure you get the spacing correct as it will be there a long time
- Mid-late March is a good time to get those Onion and Shallot sets out, using netting to keep those pesky pigeons off them till they establish
- Transplant any early peas, broad beans, cabbages or lettuce you may have started off earlier
- Sow the seed of Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, broccoli, onions and leeks in short rows on a "nursery seed bed". These can be grown on to be transplanted in April, cover if frost predicted
- Last chance to prune your fruit while they are dormant
- Harvest any Rhubarb that has been forced for an early crop
- Clear the old leaves off strawberry plants and clean up the ground in between the plants before giving them a top dressing of a general fertiliser

"A well dug trench filled with vegetable peeling will help your Runner beans through the growing season."



Please lock the gate when you enter or leave the site."

Bee Hives Area Fencing

All done; many thanks to all the volunteers for their work & for support from JB Landscaping Ltd.



Pallets & Wood Chip

We continue to receive regular supplies of Pallets & Wood Chip.

Pallets can be found either by the 'Shed' or next to the Launchpad project plots.



You will also find the Wood Chip pile there which is free for all Plot holders to use on their own Plots.

Please do **NOT** take this off site.

Dealing with waterlogged soil

By thomasdstone.blog

We have had so much rain recently and I am always being asked what to do in the garden. Well there are so many things you can do and not do in the first place to ensure you don't damage your garden.

First of all what is water logged soil? Well it's soil that's had so much water it can't take any more, most of the spaces in the soil normally filled with air, have been filled with water and the water is more than likely to be sat on the surface.

Why does it matter? Well all plants need oxygen at their roots, the micro-organisms that live in the soil need oxygen within the soil. So basically life within the soil needs oxygen. Without it in the soil, plants and life within the soil dies.

The longer the garden is under water, the more chance the roots and life within the soil has of drowning. A few days might be manageable, weeks and weeks will cause problems unless the plant is one that's adapted to that environment like say Salix, otherwise damage will occur.

It is never a case of the plant just dying in a few days, sometimes it can take months for the effects of prolonged water logging to kill a plant, it normally happens when the tree has got all the leaves open in full summer, when the most pressure is being applied to the damaged root system.

For the full article, click [here](#).



We would like to have a Logo that represents the Allotment Association.

Please send any suggestions to the usual email address below and we will announce it at the forthcoming AGM.

Our Contact Details

If you have any suggestions for items that you would like to see covered in further editions of this newsletter, please do contact us at:

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