

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

August 2020
Issue 77

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"Bonfires – Don't forget bonfires are now banned until the 1st October 2020. WTC have indicated that they will strictly enforce this change."

Covid-19 – How it affects us!

Editor: Mike McNamara – E14

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

As we all know some rules have recently changed. However, there is still a need to be aware of the current restrictions and rules concerning the current health crisis.

We advise all plot holders to protect their hands when touching the gate/padlock when entering/leaving the site – please use the blue bag by the gate to dispose of gloves.

We also ask all plot holders to **NOT** wash their hands (or any of their tools) in the water tanks around the site. Please use your own container/bucket for this. The latest advice can be found at...

[National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Emergency Measures](#)

[UK.GOV - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): what you need to do](#)

Notices

Skips – These will be on site during this Year's August Bank Holiday weekend 28th - 31st. They will be open & under supervised use (with reference to current COVID-19 rules in force at the time) from 10am till 12 Noon & 2pm till 4pm on each of the days. The skips will be locked outside of these times. Space will be on a first come first use basis; there is no guarantee that there will be space for your 'stuff'. Once they are full, they're full. See the *Special Bulletin* for more detail.

Until then or even now! If you have rubbish on your plot, then **you** must take responsibility for it; **do not dump** it elsewhere on the site. With local recycling centers now open, you can now Click & Tip. To book your slot, click [here](#).

August – Some To Do's

August is usually the height of summer – what happened! Despite the rain, try to water early in morning or later in the afternoon. Keep up the weeding by regular hoeing. Now is the time to start harvesting after all that work. With that in mind, here are some August jobs that you could be getting on with.

- Continue harvesting crops of carrots, beetroot, globe artichokes, cucumbers, courgettes, and second early potatoes
- Pinch out tops of runner beans to encourage a bushier growth and pick the beans regularly
- Main crop potatoes should be ready to dig up at the end of this month
- Stop tomato plants now to encourage fruit to swell and ripen
- Lift spring planted onions and dry off in a warm sunny place before storing
- Continue to sow Spring Cabbage and Chinese cabbage as a late crop
- If you have not already done so, sow vegetables to harvest during the winter months, including kale, winter cabbage (Winter Jewel F1 is a good variety), spinach and radicchio
- Don't forget to hoe regularly to prevent annual weed seedlings growing.
- More tips at [Allotments & Gardens](#) and [Gardeners World](#)

“Keep an eye out for blight warnings you don't want to lose any of your precious work”



Shed Survey – Results

As was mentioned in the last month's newsletter the Shed Survey has now been completed and have now published the results in a recent Special Bulletin.

Clearly there is more work to do and the Committee feels that this project would benefit greatly from its own sub-committee who could take over and run the project (with guidance if required from the main committee).

A sub-committee could look at and advise on such items as:

- What work would need to be done to the existing building?
- What costs would be involved with that?
- Comparison of repair/restoration of existing building versus the cost of replacing it with something else.

Once we have established a useable building, the same sub-committee could then take the lead in organising how it is used, cleaned etc. with help from the main committee and other volunteer tenants as needed.

If you are interested in being part of the 'Shed' committee, let us know via the usual email address.

The committee looks forward to your further feedback about this interesting and exciting project.

Dig or no dig?

There was an interesting segment on [Gardeners World](#) last week that discussed a 'no-dig' approach to growing vegetables through an interesting interview with no-dig gardener Charles Dowding. Some of his methods are discussed in a Gardeners World article [here](#) if you are a subscriber.

However, there is more from Charles Dowding...

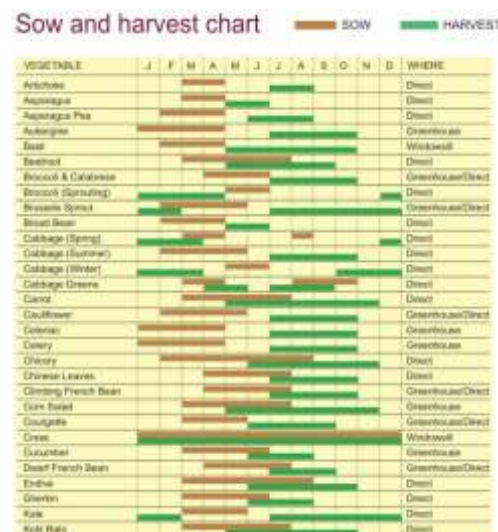
"A large part of no dig's success is to do with the relative absence of weeds. You save so much time, and are free to be more creative, with less of the constant need to weed. Incidentally I love wild areas and buzzing wildlife, but am not a fan of weeds in the veg patch or flower borders.

They can easily go from just a few, to swamping all other growth, especially new sowings and plantings. No dig makes it possible to enjoy a clean garden with mixed plantings, beautiful and productive, full of wildlife too..."

You can find his full article [here](#).

Other online resources about No Dig can be found at:

- The Advantages of [No-Dig Gardening](#)
- The [No-Dig Method](#)
- Midsummer [no dig allotment and garden](#)



A handy guide for Sowing & Harvesting



Click on these for larger version

"Site Security is important for all of us.

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

Also don't leave high-value items in your plot shed"

Other Items

Allotment Waiting List - With the recent lockdown rules resulting in a big surge in gardening, we can report that the current waiting list for an Allotment plot has risen even higher and now stands at **70!**

Plot Inspections – These have been restarted and a number of plots have been identified as unused. These will be reviewed again during the August plot inspection.

The Pond – The scalping's next to the 'pond' location will be used for the schedule September road repairs. Pond work is now very much interlinked with proposed WTC drainage work for the allotment site, we await further info on this & hope to progress this project soon.

Other Items - Continued

Items left at the Notice Board – The committee understands that this has been a good place to leave items that could have been of upcycling value by other plot holders. However, of late there have been a number of items that have not been taken and have had to be 'cleared up' by committee members.

The committee have taken the decision to now restrict items that can be left at the gate to either empty plant Pots/Seed Trays which should be left in the wooden crate behind the Notice board and Seedlings/Plants and unwanted allotment produce which can be left on the tables. We appreciate your help in keeping the entrance to our site clean and tidy.

Bee Hives - We now have 11 active Bee Hives. The Hives recently passed a health inspection from the National Bee Unit.

Well done to Steve Cook who had been instrumental in driving this project forward.

We also saw this recent article on the Woodley Town Council news pages

Woodley allotment beehive success



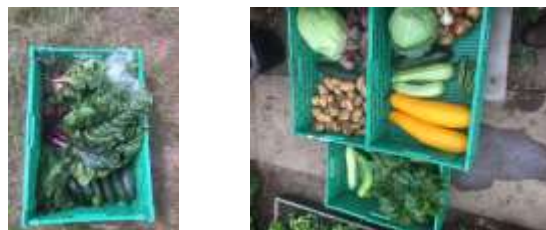
The beehive project at Woodley Town Council's allotments is proving to be a great success.

Reading Road allotment tenants involved in the bee keeping project, which was introduced last year.

You can see the full report [here](#).

This project has certainly taken off. If you are interested being part of this project, contact the committee via the normal email.

Launchpad Project Update – We continue to be without any corporate volunteers due to Covid-19. However, we are being very well supported by our own site volunteers. We have made a number of deliveries to the Readifood food bank during July and expect to keep this up as we move through August.



In the meantime; we are always interested hearing from any plot holder who can volunteer to join us & assist with this project.



Road Repairs – This is planned for Saturday 5th September from 9.00am till around mid-day. We will need a number of Volunteers carry out this vital work to ensure our roads are in good repair for the coming winter. The main emphasis of work will be the area by the gate and J/K row. Therefore, vehicles will not be able to access the site from around 9.00am until about mid-day. More in a *Special Bulletin*.

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:

readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk