

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

November 2020
Issue 80

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"Security at the Front Gate"
Please ensure that you close and lock the gate when you enter or leave the site.

Covid-19 – How it still affects us!

Editor: Mike McNamara – E14

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

As we know, new rules come into force on November 5th. As far as we understand (at the time of writing), visiting Allotments is still allowed. However, there is still a need to be aware of all the new & 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 bin bag by the gate to dispose of used gloves/masks.

Plot holders must **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 updated (November) advice can be found at...

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

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

Notices

Bonfires – These are now allowed, however they must only be lit from 4pm. You must adhere to this time. Please be considerate to local residents and check wind directions before lighting bonfires. Never leave bonfires unattended.

Plot Numbers – It is a requirement of the Tenants Agreement that all plots be numbered correctly and it is the responsibility of the tenant to do this.

From our last plot inspection we noticed that a number of plots remain un-numbered. Please number your plot.

November – Some To Do's

November can be when the hard frosts and heavy rain arrive, so grab whatever time you can on the plot in case you don't get another chance.

With that in mind, here are some jobs that you could be getting on with.

- Garlic & Autumn sown Onion sets should be planted this month
- Overwintering Peas and Broad Beans can still be planted this month
- Check Brussels Sprouts & earth up to make sure they are firmly in the ground
- Start to harvest winter cabbage, Brussels sprouts, leeks and parsnips
- Tidy up the summer fruiting raspberries. Cut off the canes that have fruited and tie in the new shoots that will bear next year's fruit
- Take hardwood cuttings from Fruit Bushes
- Dig over cleared plots and cover with well-rotted manure where needed
- Dig a Runner Bean trench & fill with kitchen waste, then cover with soil
- Now is a good time to plant new fruit trees and bushes. Soft fruit bushes can also be moved now if needed as well.
- More tips at [Allotments & Gardens](#) and [Gardeners World](#)

“What's to grow next season? Now is the time to start planning your next sowings – use our guide on page three”



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

Other Items

Allotment Waiting List – The site continues to attract interest with the waiting list now standing at **61**.

Plot Inspections – Another inspection was recently carried out and further plots have been identified as unused. This will result in more plots being allocated to new tenants and reduce our growing waiting list.

Launchpad – With Covid still affecting the lack of corporate volunteers visiting the Launchpad plots, the committee is looking for fellow plot holders to donate a couple of hours of their time to dig over some of the Launchpad plots ready for the next growing season.

If you can help, please contact the committee on the usual email address.

Other Items - Continued

We are looking for an Allotment Committee Secretary.

Duties will include:

- Attend Allotment Committee Meetings
- Create Minutes noting actions and follow-ups to be taken of all Meetings & Circulate to committee members
- Act as an additional liaison with Woodley Town Council for allotment letting/waiting list and other committee related items
- Create Agenda's for upcoming meetings, based on follow-ups/feedback from previous meetings and any new items
- Create Agenda for AGM, based on follow-ups/feedback from previous meetings and any new items
- Liaise with the Newsletter & Website Editor and with the Facebook group.

If you are interested, please contact us via the normal email.

Dobies Seed Catalogue - Order Form

A reminder that orders from this year's Dobies Seed Catalogue must be received by 30th November. Order forms and other details can be found in Special Bulletin 53 which was sent out in mid-October.

New Gate Keys

We have talked about this in previous Newsletters and as an update the committee now expects this to take place in January 2021. Basically we will be swapping the current padlock and associated keys for a more secure version which will not be able to be easily copied, thus making the site more secure and benefitting us all.

Site Security – we are again seeing the gate left open or not locked properly on a regular basis.



Please shut the gate after you have entered or left the site. Site security should be everyone's top priority after the recent break-in.

If you do have a problem with locking or unlocking the gate, then please let us know via the usual email address below.



Paths Between Plots – As a reminder to all plot holders, please keep the paths between plots free of all items. They are not there to dump weeds and other items on. Let's keep the place tidy please.

Fruit Bush Sales – We are happy to report that this year's sales revenue amounted to £600.00. Profits will go towards the running of the site and other projects.

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