

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

May 2021
Issue 86

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Notices
2. May To-Do's
3. Plot Inspections – Why do we have them?
4. Other Items, Waiting List, AGM, Website Shop, Skips, Plot Inspections

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

Our Website can be found [here](#)

Covid-19 – How it still affects us!

Editor: Mike McNamara – E14

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

The current Lockdown restrictions continue to be eased. However, there is still a need to be aware of all the current restrictions/rules concerning the current health crisis and the changes as they occur over the coming weeks.

We still advise all plot holders to protect their hands when touching the gate/padlock when entering/leaving the site – please use the bin by the gate to dispose of any 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 (May) advice can be found at...

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

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

Notices

Bonfires – Are no longer allowed onsite until 1st October 2021. Woodley Town Council will be monitoring the site for any infringements of the Tenants Agreement.

Speeding – Further letters are being sent out to serial offenders still driving at excessive speed on the site. **Please Reduce Your Speed On Site.**

CCTV – As we expand our CCTV coverage of the site, we need another 10ft. aluminum scaffold pole. If you can help with this, please contact us on the normal email address.

May – Some To Do's

May usually is a busy month and this year should be no exception with the ground slowly warming up ready for sowing and planting out.

However keep an eye out for a late frost – remember last year. With that in mind, here are some jobs that you could be getting on with.

- Sow seeds for French Beans, Runner Beans, Beetroot, Broccoli, Calabrese, Cabbage and Cauliflowers
- Plant out Brussels sprouts, summer cabbages, Celery, Celeriac, Leeks
- Earth Up early potatoes if they have started showing through, keep an eye out for a late frost
- Thin out crops sown last month, including beetroot and carrots. Be sure to cover carrots with fleece afterwards, as thinning out releases a carrot smell that attracts carrot fly
- Some other seeds to start off in the greenhouse/undercover include sweet corn, courgettes, squashes, winter brassicas like cauliflower, broccoli, purple sprouting and Brussel sprouts
- Put up poles for runner and climbing French beans. Support peas and broad beans before they become too tall.
- More tips at [Allotments & Gardens](#), [Gardeners World](#) & the [NSALG](#).

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



Plot Inspections – Some background

The Allotments Association Committee has restarted Plot Inspections again and as there have been a number of comments about these, we thought it a good idea to explain some background to the reasons for them.

Please note these initial plot inspections have only been used to set a 'baseline. Going forward and allowing for the easing of 'Covid' restrictions, the Committee will use the 'baseline' to measure additional inspection results against the criteria set out in the Tenants Agreement.



So what's the background to Plot Inspections? In December 2019 when we issued a Special Bulletin - *Plot Inspections – What are the Criteria?* - the waiting list stood at **six** with **four** plots available all of which were massively overgrown, despite the existing plot tenants insisting that they wanted to keep these plots.

Today, with the increase in popularity of gardening/allotment take up, the waiting list has seen an increase of ten-fold to **68**! With only two plots available!

With the increase in the waiting list (which estimates to a 2 years wait) and a shortage of available plots, it is incumbent on the Allotment Association Committee to ensure that all current plots are actively being used in accordance with the criteria set out in the Woodley Town Council Allotment Tenant Agreement that we all sign every year.

Some of the requirements set out by Woodley Town Council include:

- After one year, 70% of each plot should be cultivated, forming the basis for future plot surveys carried out by the allotment association

- Keep your allotment well maintained and in a proper state of cultivation at all times and keep the allotment paths and surroundings immediately adjoining your plot clean and free from weeds.

More details of what is expected according to the Tenants Agreement can be found in the Woodley Town Council/Allotment Association jointly published Special Bulletin which can be downloaded from our [Blog](#).

Addressing one recent comment, the committee does understand that during the winter seasons plots will see less work on them than in the growing season. We therefore highly recommend covering the plot to stop the spread of weeds, this will not only indicate that the plot is being 'looked after' but also help when bringing it back into production in the spring.

We hope this backgrounder explains the reasons for ongoing plot inspections.

Sow and harvest chart

VEGETABLE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	WHERE
Artichoke													Direct
Asparagus													Direct
Asparagus Pea													Direct
Aubergine													Greenhouse
Basil													Windowsill
Beetroot													Direct
Broccoli & Calabrese													Greenhouse/Direct
Broccoli (Sprouting)													Direct
Brussels Sprout													Greenhouse/Direct
Broad Bean													Direct
Cabbage (Spring)													Direct
Cabbage (Summer)													Direct
Cabbage (Winter)													Direct
Cabbage Greens													Direct
Carrot													Direct
Cauliflower													Greenhouse/Direct
Celeriac													Greenhouse
Celery													Greenhouse
Chicory													Direct
Chinese Leaves													Direct
Climbing French Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Corn Salad													Greenhouse
Courgette													Greenhouse/Direct
Cress													Windowsill
Cucumber													Greenhouse
Dwarf French Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Endive													Direct
Gherkin													Direct
Kale													Direct
Kohlrabi													Direct

A handy guide for Sowing & Harvesting

VEGETABLE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	WHERE
Leek													Direct
Lettuce Winter													Direct
Lettuce													Direct
Mangetout													Direct
Marrow													Greenhouse/Direct
Melon													Greenhouse
Mustard													Windowsill
Onion													Direct
Pak Choi													Windowsill
Parsnip													Direct
Pea													Direct
Pepper													Greenhouse
Pumpkin													Greenhouse/Direct
Radichio													Direct/Windowsill
Radish													Direct
Rhubarb													Direct
Runner Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Salad Leaves													Direct/Windowsill
Sorrel													Direct
Scorzonera													Direct
Spinach													Direct
Spring Onion													Direct
Spring Onion (Winter Hardy)													Direct
Squash													Greenhouse/Direct
Strawberry													Greenhouse
Swede													Direct
Sweetcorn													Greenhouse/Direct
Swiss Chard													Direct
Tomato													Greenhouse
Turnip													Direct

[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 – The waiting list now standing at **68**, with only two available plots currently.

Plot Inspections – Plot inspections have resumed and any unworked plots will be identified & reallocated to the waiting list. The next inspections will be during week 10th May 2021.

The committee would like to point out that if you are struggling to work/maintain your plot due to its size and it is proving too much for you, then please contact the committee on the usual email below and we can discuss various options including splitting larger plots in two and releasing the split portion onto the waiting list. Please also let us know if you intend to be away from your plot for an extended time.

If there are any plot issues at all, direct contact with us is the best way to get a resolution.

Our Website and Plant Shop

We continue to make more changes to the [Allotment Website](#). Check out the latest 'News & Information' on our [Blog](#).

The online shop has had a very successful launch this year with nearly all the current produce being purchased.

We do have a few items left these include:

- 4 x Red Veined Sorrel
- 1 x Lemon Balm
- 1 x Horse Radish
- 8 x Comfrey
- 15 x Rosemary
- 5 x Sage

All priced at £1.50 each.

We will be restocking the online shop with more products later in the summer, so keep an eye out for some upcoming bargains. You can purchase all the items either with a PayPal account or with a Credit Card. You can visit the shop [here](#).

Launchpad Update

Corporate volunteers will be back on site in May, so hopefully we are on our way back to 'normal'. Tenant volunteers have helped massively to maintain the plots during lockdown. However, we will be looking for more help particularly when the dry, hot weather comes along and the watering starts. If you can help; please email us.

We are also looking for donations of certain plants for the Launchpad plots; Butternut squash, French beans, Chard, Spinach, if you can donate any, please leave these on the table outside the Launchpad polytunnel. Many thanks.

AGM Update

If the current government time-table continues we will look to hold our next AGM on the 21st June at the Oakwood Centre in Woodley.

If you have suggestion items for the AGM Agenda or would like to join the committee then please email suggestions or your name to the usual email address.

If COVID circumstances change, we will hold a virtual AGM. We will publish more details nearer the time.

Skips Onsite

Skips will be on site for the second bank holiday in May, dates are 28th May to 31st May.

We will be issuing a Special Bulletin covering more details including what can and cannot be put into the skips.



Website Plant Sales – Many people have excess seedlings; you can always share them around other allotment holders. However, you can also donate them to our online shop via an email to donateplants@woodley-allotments.org.uk. Money raised by the sales will go towards allotment site 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