

# WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

## Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - August  
2021  
Issue 89



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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.

Editor – Mike McNamara – E14

Our Website can be found [here](#)

## A Message from the Chair

During August, we will be implementing more changes in the way we communicate with you.

By now, you should have all received a copy of the recent Special Bulletin 57 about the creation of the new Facebook group where we will set out the changes we have made.

As mentioned in the Special Bulletin, this new Facebook group has been created by the current Committee, is fully sanctioned by Woodley Town Council and will be run by the committee for all current & future tenants of the Reading Road site.

We have created a set of group rules to help guide anyone that would like to post in the new Facebook group and we welcome any and all comments about our allotment site, our website, even the Facebook group itself and in fact any subject as long as it is related to allotments.

I hope that you will join us in our new endeavors and look forward to meeting more of you on Facebook, around the allotment site and at the upcoming AGM when the date is announced.

Many thanks

**Scott Golding – Chair**

*Woodley Allotments Tenants Association at Reading Road*

*You can Click on or Scan the QR Code here to access our new Facebook Group. You will need to respond to the Facebook Group joining Questions and agree to the Facebook Group Rules before you are accepted as a member.*



## August – Some To Do's

August is another typically a dry month so make sure you keep up with watering, particularly in Poly Tunnels. Keep up with harvesting. With that in mind, here are some other jobs to be getting on with.

- Continue with the harvesting of all vegetable crops and keep up with the picking of runner beans to maintain cropping well into the autumn
- Continue with the lifting of potatoes
- Start to thin apples and pears down to one or two fruits per cluster
- Watch out for flea beetle on brassicas and related plants such as Swiss chard and rocket.
- Prepare to lift onions towards end of month, though they might be ready earlier
- Plant out any overwintering brassica such as spring cabbage, kales & hardy onions
- Keep that hoe working as the warming weather and rain will encourage more weeds; try to keep on top of them.
- 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”**





## Covid-19 – How it still affects us!

As we will all be aware the UK government has formally ended all the recent Covid restrictions in England. However, the government continues to urge caution during this uncertain time. The committee agrees and would ask all plot holders to continue to act responsibly when on the allotment site

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 (July updates) advice can be found at...

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

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

## Other Notices

**Bonfires** – Still no longer allowed onsite until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

**Speeding** – Letters are still being sent out to serial offenders still driving at excessive speed on the site.

**Please Reduce Your Speed On Site**

## AGM Update

With the recent ending of COVID formal restrictions coinciding with the main holiday season, the committee has set the date the next AGM be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7:30pm at the Oakwood Centre, Woodley.

More details including information about submitting agenda items for the AGM and election of Officers/Committee members will be issued in a Special Bulletin shortly and also published on our new [Facebook Group](#) page.

## National Allotments Week



**National Allotments Week**

A National Allotment Society initiative

National Allotment week will run from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August. The theme in 2021 is 'Plotting for the Future'; celebrating the contribution that allotments make to a sustainable future. Click on Logo for further info.

## Bee Hive Update

This continues to be a great success story with 14 Hives now being worked by 8 beekeepers in the Bee area on the Allotment which has now reached its capacity. If you are still interested in having a Hive, please let us know and we may look at expanding the Bee Hive area at some stage in the future.

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													Windowill
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													Windowill
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													Windowill
Onion													Direct
Pak Choi													Windowill
Parsnip													Direct
Pea													Direct
Pepper													Greenhouse
Pumpkin													Greenhouse/Direct
Radish													Direct/Windowill
Rhubarb													Direct
Runner Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Salad Leaves													Direct/Windowill
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 is now standing at **82**, with **two** available plots being shown to prospective tenants. We will also now be updating this waiting list numbers on our new [Facebook Group](#) page in between monthly Newsletters.

**Plot Inspections** – The next Plot inspections will be held during August.

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 do please contact the committee on the new email address 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.

## Fruit Bushes & Seeds - Our Shop

It's that time of year already to be thinking about planting out fruit bushes and what seeds to order for next year.

Again we have some good bargains and excellent discounts for vegetable seed.

Keep an eye out for a Special Bulletin with full details.

## Launchpad Charity Plot Update

We continue to make deliveries to food banks supported by Launchpad this month and although there are no corporate volunteers planned for August, tenant volunteers continue to maintain the plots to assist with this important charity project.

However, we are always looking for additional assistance. If 'you' can help by donating some of your time – for example on Monday's 10am till 1pm a 'free' brunch will be provided. Help is particularly need now that we have dry, hot weather. If you can help and support this great charity please let us know via the new email address on this page below.

You can also donate any extra fresh produce that you have that you cannot use which will go out alongside our regular deliveries on Monday lunchtime. Just leave any donations by the LaunchPad Polytunnel at the bottom end of the Jersey Knoll (opposite end from the main gate). Many thanks.

## Road Repairs

Diary date; our yearly effort to keep the roads in good condition is planned for the month of September on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>.

We will of course be looking for volunteers to help with this important job to prepare our roads for the coming winter.

Please also be aware that as with last year, there will be a need to shut some of the roads to carry our repairs.

More details in a Special Bulletin and on our new [Facebook Group](#) page nearer the day.

Don't forget the free BBQ at the end of the work.



**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](mailto: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:*

[readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk](mailto:readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk)