

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter -
September 2021
Issue 90



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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](#)

Two Important Events in September

Road Repairs – Scheduled for Saturday 11th September

Our yearly effort to keep the roads in good condition will take place on Saturday 11th September.

We will of course be looking for a large number of volunteers to help with this important job to prepare our roads for the coming winter. At the time of writing, we currently have 16 confirmed volunteers, but we think we need around 14 more to get the job done in one go. If we can't get more then we may have to postpone the work.

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

A Special Bulletin has been sent out via email with more details, you can [download](#) a copy from our [website](#). Don't forget the free BBQ at the end of the work.

If you can help with this important task, then let us know as soon as possible via readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk

AGM 2021

The next AGM be held on Tuesday 21st September at 7:30pm at the Oakwood Centre, Woodley. For everyone's safety, we will be adhering to the latest Covid advice for an inside meeting.

The final AGM Agenda will be published via email and available for download from our Website along with other related publications during the week of 6th September.

We will also make an announcement on the Official Facebook Group page when they are available, a copy will also be posted on the main gate Notice Board.

We do realise that there are a number of members that are not on the internet and efforts have already been made successfully to inform these members that want to attend the AGM, can attend.

September – Some To Do's

September is the month where we can reap the rewards of all the past hard work in what has been an unusual weather year so far. It's also a month to start planning for overwintering crops and looking ahead to next year. With that in mind, here are some other jobs to be getting on with.

- Main crop Potatoes should be ready for lifting as well as any Onions left in the ground
- Apples and Pears should be ready for picking
- Increase the cutting of courgettes, they'll finish soon. Keep an eye on Squash's and Pumpkin's, a darkening stem indicates its ready for cutting
- Think about space for the overwintering produce such as spinach, winter salads, broad beans and peas for earlier harvests next spring. Also onions, shallots and garlic
- Keep that hoe working as those weeds never seem to give up growing
- If you have a piece of land you're not going to use over winter, think about sowing a Green Manure, it's a great way to improve its structure and fertility, here's an article from [Gardeners World](#) about Green Manure and some of its benefits
- 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 are all 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 (August updates) advice can be found at...

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

[UK.GOV - Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#)

Other Notices

Bonfires – Still no longer allowed onsite until 1st 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

Aluminium Greenhouse for Free

Free to anyone prepared to dismantle it. Size is 6ft x 4 ft. Call 0118 327 8013 if you are interested.



RHS Wisley Flower Show



A great day out for those who grow flowers on their allotments and like a nice bloom.

Lots to see including exhibits from the National Dahlia Society and the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies.

Much more info [here](#).

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
Kohi Rabi													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
Radicchio													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 is now standing at **88**, with **NO** available plots.

We will also now be updating the waiting list number on our Facebook Group page in between monthly Newsletters.

Plot Inspections

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 our email address at the end of this newsletter. We can then 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 for any circumstances.

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.

A Special Bulletin with full details about varieties available and prices can be downloaded [here](#).

Launchpad Charity Plot Update

We continue to make deliveries to food banks supported by Launchpad this month.

Although we are expecting two sets of corporate volunteers during September, tenant volunteers continue to maintain the plots to assist with this important charity project.

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 needed now as we continue to water by hand. If you can help and support this great charity please let us know via the email address on this page.

You can also donate any extra fresh produce 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.

New Allotment Tenant?



Just started with your first allotment?

We recently published a new and updated Welcome Pack.

It gives a number hints & tips plus links to great advice from a wide range of sources.

You can download a copy from our website [here](#).

Of course if you have any handy hints or tips to pass on to fellow allotment tenants send your information to the address below and we will publish them in a future newsletter.



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:

readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk