

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - October
2021
Issue 91



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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](#)

Road Repairs & AGM Report

Road Repairs

What a great turnout for the annual road repairs on the 11th September, nearly 40 came along to help, the weather stayed great and a very good BBQ was enjoyed by everyone. The committee would like to thank everyone for their hard work.



AGM 2021

AGM 2021 was another great event with just under 90 people in attendance. A number of items were addressed during the course of the meeting, with some initial changes being made to the original Association Constitution and elections of a new committee taking place.

A Special Bulletin has been issued about the initial changes (copies can be downloaded [here](#)) and full minutes of the meeting will be made available in due course.



October – Some To Do's

October is the month where things start to wind down, but there is still produce to harvest, some sowing to do and improvement of the soil.

With that in mind, here are some other jobs to be getting on with.

- List the last of the main crop Potatoes if still in the ground
- Pick the last of the Apples and Pears
- Keep an eye on Squash's and Pumpkin's, a darkening stem indicates its ready for cutting
- Sow Broad Beans & over wintering Peas
- Stake any Brussel Sprout plants that you have
- Plant out spring cabbage and overwintering types of onion and garlic. It's also a good time to plant new Rhubarb/divide up plants you already have
- Add Manure/Soil Improver to any area that needs it and cover for winter
- Keep that hoe working in other areas, as those weeds never seem to give up growing
- 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!

Although there have been a number of recent changes to UK Covid Restrictions, the government continues to urge caution and recently issued its [Autumn/Winter Plan](#). 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 – Under the current tenancy agreement, bonfires are now allowed from 1st October to 30th April 2022, but only after 4pm each day. However the Committee asks that all plot holders take care when having bonfires, please check wind strength and direction so that smoke does not blow unnecessarily onto surrounding residents gardens. **Please note that you are responsible to ensure that the bonfire is not left unattended and that any embers are extinguished before leaving the site.**

RATS and how to deal with them.

An interesting item was raised at the recent AGM about Rats on the Allotment site and how to deal with them. We will be looking into this subject in more detail in an upcoming Special Bulletin. In the meantime here are some handy hints and some links about deterring Rats in the first place.

- Turn the contents of your compost bin regularly (at least twice per year). This disturbs any rats that have taken up residence. Plastic compost bins should have a small gauge wire mesh lining at the base or can be placed on paving slabs to prevent rats from burrowing in. If you have a compost bin made from pallets, line it with chicken wire
- Never put meat, dairy, bones, cooked foods in your compost. This will attract rats and make your compost smell
- Harvest ripe fruit and vegetables promptly and take them home to enjoy. Do not leave discarded fruit and vegetables on the ground, as these are a source of food for rats and other pests. Rats carry risk of Weil's disease, Salmonella and Leptospirosis among other things and they urinate wherever they go
- Keep your plot tidy and ensure that the allotment does not become overgrown or allow rubbish to build up
- Check that your shed (and under it) is as rat-proof as possible.

Additional information can be found at [RHS](#), [Gardeners World](#) & [BHG](#)

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 **92**, with **9** available plots currently being viewed.

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. Next plot inspections will take place during October.

Please also let us know if you intend to be away from your plot for an extended time for any other circumstances.

Launchpad Charity Plot Update

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



We are expecting some more corporate volunteers during October; however, tenant volunteers will continue to maintain the plots over the winter months 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. 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).

The Launchpad team are also looking for donations of any spare tools you no longer need, such as Fork's, Rake's, Hoe's & Spades. If you have anything you can donate, please leave them in the Launchpad Polytunnel. Many thanks in advance of your donation.

New Committee Contacts

Per the recent elections at the AGM 2021 meeting, the new committee are:

Chair - Scott Golding (F30)

Vice-Chair - Sarah Lane (H28)

Treasurer - Kerri Evans (C29a)

Secretary - Gill Germain (C23)

Teresa Buley - (E18)

Tony Carter - (C22)

Brian Hughes (K33)

Barry Jackson - (G28)

Mike McNamara (E14)



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