

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter -
November 2021
Issue 92



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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](#)

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](#)

BONFIRES – Under the current tenancy agreement, bonfires are now allowed from 1st October to 30th April 2022, **but only after 4pm each day**. We have already spoken with a number of plot holders lighting bonfires early. Please stick to the 4pm deadline.

The Committee also 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 also responsible to ensure that your bonfire is not left unattended and that any embers are fully extinguished before you leave the site.

November – Some To Do's

November with its short days still offers some hours to work on sorting out the allotment ready for next year as well as some harvesting.

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

- Start to harvest winter cabbage, Brussels sprouts, leeks and parsnips. Best wait until after a frost for the parsnips as this gives them their natural sweetness
- You can still sow Broad Beans & over wintering Peas at the start of the month
- If the ground is not waterlogged, now is a good time to dig over parts of your plot and perhaps start a bean trench for next year, dig in any green manure that you have
- If not already done, Plant garlic, onions and shallots
- Prune fruit bushes & Cut down autumn-fruiting raspberries
- Net any Brassicas you have to deter pigeons
- Clean up any leftover/unused crops and compost.
- 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”



Winter on the Allotment

Do you have some spare time on your hands during the winter months? Here are two projects that might benefit you during the next growing season.

Build some raised beds



They come in various shapes, sizes and designs, here a few links to help you along.

- [How to Build Raised Garden Beds from Wood Pallets](#)
- [DIY Pallet Wood Raised Garden Beds](#)
- [How to Build a Raised Bed from 1 Pallet! – YouTube Video](#)
- [Make a raised bed from a pallet – YouTube Video](#)

Plant Pots for Free

We're all trying to have as little impact on the environment as possible at the moment; one is to reduce the use of plastic.

How about this for an idea? Plant pots from old newspapers.



- [How to make paper plant pots – Gardeners World](#)
- [Make your own newspaper seed pots – Eden Project](#)
- [Two ways to make Newspaper Plant Pots – Lovely Greens](#)
- [How to make newspaper pots – RHS School Gardening](#)

Maybe an entertaining project for involving the whole family.

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
Mangelout													Direct
Marrow													Greenhouse/Direct
Melon													Greenhouse
Mustard													Windowill
Onion													Direct
Pak Choi													Windowill
Parsnip													Direct
Pea													Direct
Pepper													Greenhouse
Pumpkin													Greenhouse/Direct
Radichio													Direct/Windowill
Radish													Direct
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 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 – Next Inspections due in 2022

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 other circumstances.

Launchpad Update

We continue to make Monday Lunchtime deliveries to food banks supported by Launchpad this month. If you have any excess produce that you would like to donate to this worthy charity, then please leave your donations by the Launchpad Polytunnel at the bottom end of Jersey Knoll (Rows J/K)

We are not expecting any more corporate volunteers until early 2022. If any tenants can donate any of their spare time – for example on Monday's 10am till 1pm a 'free' brunch will be provided – it would be greatly appreciated. If you can help and support this great charity please let us know via the email address on this page.

Road Repairs – Phase Two

A date for your diary – we still need to complete this year's round of Road Repairs and have set a date of the Thursday 9th of December for this.

If you can come along and help us with this important task, please let us know via the email address at the end of this newsletter. We aim to start work at 9:30 am on the day. We will publish more information nearer the time.

Dobies Seed Catalogues

It's the time to think about ordering seed for the next growing Season.

We have increased the discount for seed (only) purchases to 20% for this year.

Orders must be received by November 30th 2021

You can download more information and a copy of the Special Bulletin and the Dobies Group Scheme Order Form from our website [here](#).

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