

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter -
December 2021
Issue 93

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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!

By now we have all will heard about the latest Covid updates around the new strain and the re-introduced restrictions. The committee agrees with these 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 and not general rubbish.

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 (30th November) advice can be found at...

[UK.GOV - Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](https://www.uk.gov/government/coronavirus/covid-19/uk-covid-19-guidance-documents)

[National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Emergency Measures](https://www.allotmentsociety.co.uk/covid-19-emergency-measures)

BONFIRES – Under the current tenancy (and the forthcoming 2022) agreement, bonfires are now only allowed from 1st October to 30th April 2022(3), **and after 4pm each day.** The Committee has approached WTC about bringing the 4pm deadline forward, however on environmental grounds they have declined our request. 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.

December – Some To Do's

December is traditionally a month for housekeeping jobs and with the continuing short days' time is in short supply to carry out some of the jobs mentioned below.

- Continue to harvest winter cabbage, Brussels sprouts, leeks and parsnips, with the recent cold snap they may well have improved taste
- If the ground is not frozen or too waterlogged, now is a good time to dig over parts of your plot digging in rotted manure or compost as you go along and perhaps start a bean trench for next year
- If you didn't do so last month, winter-prune gooseberries and thin established blueberry and currant bushes, removing about a third of older wood on blackcurrants
- Harvest the last of your carrots, turnips, kohlrabi, and any remaining beetroot which can then be stored
- Give all your pots, seed trays, and other equipment a thorough wash and clean to prevent diseases/viruses carrying over to next year
- 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 are a few links 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													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
Radichio													Direct/Windowsill
Radish													Direct
Rhubarb													Direct
Runner Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Salad Leaves													Direct/Windowsill
Sorrel													Direct
Scorzonera													Direct
Spinach													Direct
Spring Onion													Direct
Squash (Winter Hardy)													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 continues to stand at **92**, with **9** vacant plots waiting to be 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 continue to point out that if you are struggling to work/maintain your plot due to its size, or it is proving too much for you for whatever reason; then do please contact the committee on our email address at the end of this newsletter. We can then discuss a number of ways in which we can support you.

Please also let us know if you intend to be away from your plot for an extended time for any other circumstances including self-isolating, extended holidays etc.

Launchpad Update

We have had some fantastic support from the Local Huntley & Palmer Allotment Association who have donated some new tools for the Launchpad project. They have also donated seed onions for winter planting. If you would like to 'test-drive' them, contact us on the usual email address below.



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 will aim to start work at 9:30 am and meet up at the main gate on the day. We will publish any updates on our Facebook Page nearer the time.

Committee Contacts

If you have any questions about any issues on our allotment site, please feel free to contact any of the committee on their plots or use the email address at the end of this newsletter.

Chair - Scott Golding (F30)

Vice-Chair - Sarah Lane (H28)

Treasurer - Kerri Evans (C29a)

Secretary - Gill Germain (C23)

Teresa Buley - (E18)

Tony Carter - (D21)

Brian Hughes (K33)

Barry Jackson - (G28)

Mike McNamara (E14)



Bonfires – As mentioned at the front of this newsletter, WTC turned down a request to extend the start time of bonfires. WTC's Leisure Services Committee has also stated "*it discourages the use of bonfires in favour of composting*". Perhaps we need to look at how we can better deal with our allotment rubbish in light of current environmental discussions.

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