

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - March
2022
Issue 96

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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. Don't forget, new keys from 1st March 2022.

Editor – Mike McNamara – E14

Our Website can be found [here](#)

March Newsletter

Association Constitution

As agreed at the AGM last year, an EGM was held in February to discuss and approve changes to our Association Constitution

The Committee would like to thank all of those Association Members who attended the EGM and in particular would also like to thank Committee member Brian Hughes for all his diligent work in bringing this revision of the Constitution to a final conclusion.

If you missed getting a copy you can download the [revised Constitution](#) from our website.

AGM – Date for your Diaries

Under the recently approved revised Constitution the Committee have set the date of the next AGM for 25th April 2022 at the Oakwood Centre in Woodley at 7:30pm. All Association Members are most welcome. We will publish more details in a separate Special Bulletin soon.

New Tenants

The Committee has been working in tandem with Woodley Town Council (WTC) to reduce the current Allotment Waiting List, and we are pleased to report that seven new tenants have taken up vacant plots across the site in February with more viewings scheduled for early March.

WTC and the Committee have also devised a scheme to allow for even more plots to be allocated through the splitting of some larger plots and some other interesting innovations. We will publish those in a separate Special Bulletin during March.

Bonfires

Please remember that in accordance with the 2022 Tenancy Agreement Bonfires will not be allowed after 30th April 2022.

If you have other rubbish to dispose of you must make your own arrangements although the committee is still looking into having more 'Skip Days' and will publish more information about this in a separate Special Bulletin.

March – Some To Do's

With Spring on the horizon, the days are starting to lengthen, temperatures are on the increase and it's time to get things moving. However, keep alert for sudden frosts. With this in mind, here are some jobs that you can tackle.

- Get seed potatoes chitting in a cool and light place
- Sow some early peas ('e.g. Kelvenden Wonder' or 'Early Onward') and broad beans (e.g. 'Witkiem Manita' or 'Express') under cloches in Mid-Feb
- Sow chilli seeds and keep on a warm window sill
- Continue to fill your bean trench with kitchen peelings. Remember to cover each deposit with soil to prevent any vermin getting at it
- Sow the seed of Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, broccoli, onions and leeks in short rows on a "nursery seed bed". These will be grown on to be transplanted in April. Keep fleece handy to cover these and other tender plants during snap frosts.
- March is a good time to establish an asparagus bed if you are starting from crowns. Do make sure you get it in the right position as it will be there permanently.
- 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!

Covid continues to affect our lives in one way or another despite the recent removal of many of the government restrictions.

The Committee 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 (24th February 2022) advice can be found at...

- [UK.GOV - Coronavirus: how to stay safe & help prevent the spread](https://www.uk.gov/government/coronavirus/covid-19/uk-gov-coronavirus-how-to-stay-safe)
- [National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Emergency Measures](https://www.allotmentsociety.co.uk/covid-19-emergency-measures)

Security Update

New Keys/Padlocks

1st March 2022 sees the introduction of new high-security padlocks and keys. The Committee believes that this will seriously cut down on non-plot holder access to the Allotment site.

We understand from WTC that there are a few tenants that still need to collect their new keys from their office in Woodley. Please do this as soon as possible.

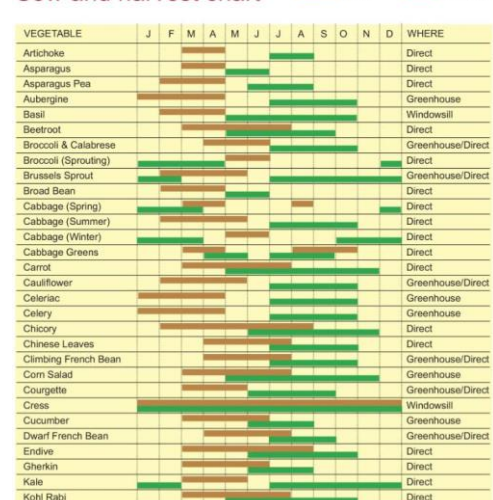
CCTV Cameras

The Committee continues to relocate the CCTV cameras around the site as we try to deal with a spate of Fly-Tipping.

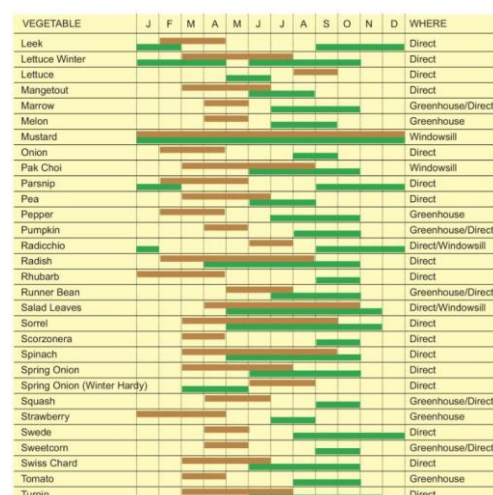
We are also considering buying additional cameras to help combat this inconsiderate act of disposal, which is a clear breach of the Tenancy Agreement

As mentioned in the January Newsletter data collected by the CCTV cameras is now covered by our revised Data Policy.

Sow and harvest chart



A handy guide for Sowing & Harvesting



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.

Don't forget to collect your new gate key.

Also don't leave high-value items in your plot shed”

Other Items

Allotment Waiting List – The waiting list is now starting to reduce and is currently at 82, with **23** vacant plots waiting to be allocated. Some of these plots are in the process of being split to offer some smaller plots to first time allotmenters. 7 new tenants were allocated vacant plots in February. More viewings are scheduled for March.

Looking to downsize your Plot?

If you are struggling to work/maintain your plot due to its size, or it's proving too much for you for whatever reason; then do please contact the Committee.

We can then discuss a number of ways in which we can support you.

Also, please let us know if you intend to be away from your plot for an extended time for any other circumstances including illness, extended holidays etc.

A revised 'Welcome Pack' - Update



We are close to issuing a revised Welcome Pack to all Tenants. This will incorporate updated information based on the revised Tenancy Agreement and guidance for plot inspections which will recommence at the start of April. Please check your email in boxes shortly.

Road Repairs – Phase Two

As you will have read on the Official Facebook page, this had to be postponed last month at short notice due to circumstances beyond our control. Repairs have now been postponed again till the end of March.

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. More info & dates shortly.

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 previously, please remember that Bonfires will not be allowed after 30th April 2022. If you have other rubbish to dispose of you must make your own arrangements although the Committee is still looking into having more 'Skip Days'.

More news on this will be included in a future Special Bulletin.

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