

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - April
2022
Issue 97

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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](#)

April Newsletter

Welcome to all New Tenants

A very big welcome to our eighteen new Tenants that have joined us over the past two months taking on Vacant Plots.

As we mentioned last month the Committee has been working in tandem with Woodley Town Council (WTC) to reduce the current Allotment Waiting List. One of these schemes has been to introduce the notion of Mini-Plots. This is where we have split up some small 5 pole plots into 2.5 pole Mini-Plots.

Taken these new split plots into account, we have managed to add four more plots and now have 25 Vacant Plots to allocate to the Waiting List.

AGM – Important 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.

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.

Welcome Pack

If you have not received your copy of the 2020 revised Welcome Pack, you can now download your own copy from our [website](#).

Opting-In

If you know someone who is not getting their copy of the Associations Monthly Newsletter, point them at our [website](#) and they can Opt-In to receive the Newsletter and other communications from the Association.

April – Some To Do's

April can be one of the busiest months in the allotment calendar with growing seedlings and planting out keeping us all busy. However, beware of any late frosts. With this in mind, here are some jobs that you can tackle.

- Start or continue with planting out chitted seed potatoes
- Complete the planting of onion sets and carry on making successional sowings of beetroot & parsnips
- Sow under cover aubergines, chillies and tomato seeds, which need a long growing season to do well. Other crops that can be sown under cover include celeriac, courgettes, squashes, pumpkins, marrows & leeks
- Sow Carrots, don't forget to protect them from the dreaded carrot root fly
- Check over soft fruit for the first broods of aphids and take appropriate action; spray the plant with soapy water (diluted washing up liquid) or squash the flies with your thumb and finger
- Strawberries can be planted out now, it's best to remove flowers in the first year as you conserve strength for growth and gain larger crops in subsequent years.
- 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”



Charity Plots - Update

Our Allotment Association has a long history of supporting charities and continues to do that today, with 3 established charities already on site and discussions progressing with another. Here's a short update on what's going on one of them. More reports next month plus an introduction to another Charity joining our site.

Launchpad

By far the biggest charity we have on the site, Launchpad was founded as a soup kitchen in 1979 by students at the University of Reading. Launchpad's three plots are used to grow fresh food that is then distributed via the charity and ReadFood – Reading's Food Bank.

With the end of Covid restrictions and the start of the nice weather, it was nice to welcome corporate volunteers from Keysight Technologies on to the Launchpad plots for a hard days' work of sowing Potatoes and other vegetables for future harvest.



Other Charities we support on site include...

Addington School are a Special School for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Addington School uses their plot for the benefit of their work with people special educational needs and disabilities.

Sport in Mind is a UK mental health sports charity that uses sport and physical activity to improve the lives of people experiencing mental health. Sport in Mind uses their plot for the benefits of their work with people experiencing mental health problems.

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)													Greenhouse/Direct
Squash													Greenhouse
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 continuing to reduce and is currently at **83**, with **25** vacant plots waiting to be allocated. More viewings are scheduled for April.

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.

Plot Inspections

These will be recommencing after the upcoming AGM.

Covid-19 – Update

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 update latest details](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- [National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Precautions](https://www.allotmentsociety.co.uk/covid-19-precautions)

Security Update

1st March 2022 saw the introduction of new high-security padlocks for the gates albeit with some initial teething issues. However, with this change, we now know that there are only the correct numbers of keys in circulation!

CCTV

The Committee continues to relocate our CCTV cameras around the site as we try to deal with an on-going spate of Fly-Tipping. Please dispose of your own rubbish responsibly.

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)



Road Repairs – Phase Two

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

We will post information as soon as possible.

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