

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter -
NOVEMBER 2022
Issue 103

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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](#)

Notices

Recent Honey Sale

The recent sale of Honey from the on-site hives has been an immense success, however there are jars left over from the original sale.

If you are interested in buying one of the remaining jars, please contact either Paul Moffatt on 07813 078199 or Steve Cook on 07471 207565 and they will let you know how to go about obtaining a jar.

The on-site beehives have also helped a great deal with the pollination of everything that we grow and at the same time producing lovely honey from the onsite plants/flowers.

Reminders from the recent Plot Inspections.

- Please continue to remove vehicle tyres from the plots that still have them. Please remember also that local recycling sites only let you bring in up to three tyres per each visit. We hope that any remaining tyres are removed before the next plot inspections.
- Now is a good time to turn over your compost heaps.
- Before we suffer any of the usual winter gales, it is probably a good time to make sure that everything is secured on your plot.

Seed Catalogue Sales

Keep an eye out for an upcoming Special Bulletin with regards to our yearly Seed Catalogue. This year the discount will be **10%** on seed items and **5%** on non-seed items. As per last year we will aim to make the selection, ordering and payment as easy as possible.

More details in Special Bulletin 83 out with this newsletter.

NOVEMBER – Some To Do's

NOVEMBER is about harvesting more of this year's sowings.

However, you can still plant out a few items.

With that in mind, here are some jobs for this month.

- Keep harvesting this year's crops. If there is too much for your own use, consider donating some to the Launchpad Charity for their food runs. You can find them at the end of Jersey Knoll (Rows J/K). Do not leave any unused crops on your plot that will rot and perhaps harbour diseases
- It is a good time to plant garlic if the ground isn't frozen. Use netting to cover your cloves until they root to prevent birds pulling them up.
- Blackcurrants, redcurrants, whitecurrants and gooseberries can be pruned any time between November and March – [Gardeners World Tips](#) - Cut down autumn-fruiting raspberries as well.
- Check the stakes on your Brussels Sprouts.
- Cut back your yellowing asparagus foliage if you haven't already.
- Hold back on harvesting parsnips till we have had a frost, it will help improve the flavour.
- Keep hoeing to stay on top of any pesky weeds that may appear.
- Many more tips at [Allotments & Gardens](#), [Gardeners World](#) & the [NSALG](#).

“What to grow next season? Now is the time to start planning your next sowings – use our guide on page three”



Winter on the Allotment

Following on from last month's article. There is so much written about what to do on an Allotment in the Winter, so much so in fact that it would fill up many additional pages of this newsletter.

So, we have searched the Internet to find some of the best advice/tips and listed them below (with trusted links). Some are quite old, but good advice never expires!

Of course, if you have any special tips for winter on the allotment, then we would love to hear about them. Let us know via the usual email address at the end of the newsletter. Happy Winter on your plot.

- Grow Your Own magazine editor Lucy Chamberlain lists 10 essential autumn jobs to get done on your allotment or garden – [From the Guardian](#)
- Plan for winter by growing a range of robust crops so that even when the weather is bleak, there's something tasty to harvest or bring out of storage. – [From the RHS](#)
- How To Manure Your Plot For Winter – [From Owning an Allotment](#)
- Cool Allotment Ideas and Jobs For Winter – [From Real Men Sow!](#)
- Yorkshire gardeners have been urged to follow these nine top tips – [From The Wakefield Express](#)

Planning your Allotment for next season

As we have had quite a few new tenants join the site this year we thought it would be a good idea to bring together several interesting tips to help with planning for next year's growing season.

- Still haven't worked out a plan, here's some [tips from the National Allotment Society](#)
- An alternative approach can be found at the [Allotment Book](#) site
- Here's a comprehensive guide about allotments from [Mantis](#)
- Need some tips on allotment design? Try [William James](#)
- A guide to getting started with an allotment from the [RHS](#)
- Not forgetting No-Dig – here's a starting point from [Garden Organic](#)
- Some tips on Crop Rotation from – [Allotments and Gardens](#)
- Need to know what to do each month – [Gardeners World has a list](#)
- Essential Tools for the Vegetable Grower from [Allotments & Gardens](#)
- Building a Compost Heap, Step by Step Guide from [Hello Gardening](#)
- Finally, something about the positive impacts of allotments on mental and physical health from [Our Voices](#).

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													Direct
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
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
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
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 continues to reduce and is currently at **52** with just **five** vacant plots of varying sizes waiting to be allocated during NOVEMBER. The Committee has noticed a trend towards new tenants taking on smaller plots.

Away from your plot for an extended period? – Please let us know if you intend to be away from your plot for an extended time for any circumstance including illness & extended holidays so we can keep an eye on it for you and exempt it from any plot inspections.

Plot inspections – The Summer round of plot inspections has now been completed and Plot Inspection Reports have been delivered by email or pinned to your plot if you have not completed our [“Opt-In”](#) form.

Covid-19 Update - Covid continues to affect our lives in one way or another. The Committee would still 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. 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 (16th June 2022) advice can be found at...

- [UK.GOV – Coronavirus update latest details](#)
- [National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Precautions](#)

Proposed Memorial Plot (F30)

The Committee have received several emails from tenants interested in contributing to this either with plants or helping with the construction of it.

The Committee will be putting together a schedule of work to start in late January/early February along with a volunteer working party to carry out the work. If you would like to be part of that working party, let the Committee know via the usual email at the end of this newsletter.

What to do with all those stones?

As you carry out your winter digging, you may come across lots of stones that you don't want to keep. Here's a suggestion for their use if you want to dispose of them.

Have a look along the road that runs by your plot and if there are some potholes in it, you can deposit the stones into the pothole. Level off the stones and as cars go over them, they will get pressed down into the hole. It's a good way of helping to keep the roads in a better condition, now that what look like a wet winter is here.

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.

- Vice-Chair - Sarah Lane (H28)
- Treasurer - Kerri Evans (C29a)
- Secretary - Gill Germain (C23)
- John Anderson (H27)
- Teresa Buley - (E18)
- Tony Carter - (D21)
- Barry Jackson - (G28)
- Mike McNamara (E14)



Bonfires now allowed.

As from the 1st OCTOBER 2022 bonfires are now allowed.

But you can only start one after 4pm, they should not be left unattended at any time and must be completely extinguished before you leave the site. Please also be considerate of the wind and what you burn.

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