

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter -
DECEMBER 2022
Issue 105

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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

We're looking for a new Editor for the Newsletter

After 6 years as Editor of the Monthly Newsletter our current Editor, Mike McNamara will be stepping down at the next AGM in March 2023.

In addition to the Newsletter, Mike has also had responsibility for updating and looking after the Website, managing the processes for the items that the Committee send out to Tenants to association mailing list and several other Allotment related items. Mike will also be stepping down from the Association Committee at the AGM.

The Committee would be interested to hear from any Association member that would like to take over the Editorship of the Newsletter.

If you are interested in becoming the New Editor, please let us know via the usual email address of readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk and the committee will be back in touch.

Seed Catalogue Sales

Don't forget that the closing date for all seed orders is **7th December 2022**. Please make sure that you send your seed order with full payment to Teresa Buley by that date.

Full details about the Seed Catalogue Sales can be found in Special Bulletin 83, which was sent out along with the November Newsletter.

If you need another copy, you can find one at [this link](#).

DECEMBER – Some To Do's

December is here and daylight hours are in short supply this month. But if the weather allows, a few hours spent on the allotment will not only warm you up, you'll reap the benefits next year, too.

- Harvest Brussels sprouts when they are around one inch in diameter, before they 'blow open'. Pick them from the base of the plant up, twisting them away from the plant
- Do not forget the Parsnips, leeks and winter cabbages, all of which can be left in the ground until you need them. If frosts are forecast, cover the soil with some straw to make easier to dig them up
- It is not too late to lift and divide large clumps of rhubarb, replanting the outer sections into soil enriched with well-rotted manure
- There is not much that can be planted outside during December, but perhaps some Onion seed inside ready for next spring
- It is a good time to start your Runner Bean trench for kitchen scraps
- December is a good time to carry out any plot maintenance and to clean/repair any tools that need it
- Lastly, order next years seeds from the [Catalogue by 7th December](#).
- 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
Mangelout													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)													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**. The Committee on behalf of Woodley Town Council will be suspending allotment viewings during December as we reorganize several plots that the Council have handed back to the Committee.

This will include splitting some plots in half which will boost the number of vacant plots we have when we start plot viewings again in the New Year.

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 – These will resume in the Spring of 2023.

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 continue to receive emails from tenants interested in contributing to this either with plants or helping with the construction of it. As mentioned previously, the Committee are in the process of putting together a schedule of work to start in late January/early February. If you would like to be part of the working party, please let the Committee know via the email at the end of this newsletter.

Allotment Waiting List.

A question was raised at the AGM in April about preferences for Allotment Plots been given to people not on the Woodley Town Council Allotment Waiting List. The Committee responded that as far as they were aware at the time there were no such preferences being given.

However, the Committee has recently been informed that WTC do have an agreement in place whereby Reading Council area residents that require an Allotment are being given preference over the WTC waiting list. The Reading/WTC agreement allows up to 50 plots being allocated under this agreement & currently stands at 38.

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