



# WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

## at Reading Road

### Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - FEBRUARY  
2023  
Issue 107

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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](https://www.woodley-allotments.org.uk)

## Notices

### **We are a Community, despite some pushback!**

One aspect of an Allotment Association is to try and engender a sense of community. The Committee tries very hard to do this in several ways. One recent incident shows us that not everyone on our site wants to be part of that sense of community.

The site recently took a delivery of 'free' wood chip which was intended for all tenants to share. Whilst tenants could help themselves on a 'first come first serve basis', we were sure that each tenant would only take only what they could carry in a single journey or two, leaving most of the pile for others to enjoy.

Imagine our disappointment when one tenant decided to take all the woodchip for their own plot and when challenged about this move, was extremely abusive to the Committee. We will be reporting this tenant to Woodley Town Council as well as ensuring that this will not happen again in the future.

### **A new Editor for the Newsletter**

As we mentioned in January's Newsletter, our current Newsletter Editor will be stepping down at the next AGM in March. The Committee would be interested to hear from any Association member that would like to take over the editorship of the Newsletter.

**Technical 'Guru'** - The Committee is also looking for a volunteer to look after the running of Associations Website & our internal email set-up from the next AGM in March. If you are interested in taking on either of these roles please let us know via the usual email address of [readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk](mailto:readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk) and the Committee will be back in touch with you.



## February – Some To Do's

February is here & hopefully we may be over the recent cold snap. Forecasts show an unsettled period for February which may allow us to spend a bit more time on the plot. So, here's some suggestions to think about:

- February is the best month to plant out garlic and shallots
- Prune late/autumn fruiting raspberries down as low as possible and mulch around them
- If you have any, check over chitting potatoes and begin to rub off any eyes that are unwanted leaving three or four well-spaced shoots
- Broad beans can be sown outside if the soil is not frozen or waterlogged
- Keep filling up your runner bean trench with kitchen scraps. Make sure to cover the filled bits with soil to stop vermin eating. If you don't have one, start it now as it will keep the plants feed through the growing season
- Bare-rooted fruit trees and bushes can be planted
- Mid-February onwards is a good time to sow tomato and cucumber seed for greenhouse growing
- Finish off any plot maintenance and make sure to clean/repair any tools that need it
- Set out Cloches to warm up the seed bed soil
- 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”**



## Onion (Allium) Leaf Miner



As we all get ready for the coming growing season, one pest to watch out for is onion leaf miner or allium leaf miner. The larvae of this fly bore into the stems and bulbs of leeks, onions, chives and garlic causing the leaves to twist and the bulbs to be deformed.

We have pulled together some handy hints and tips from around the web. If you have any handy hints as tips, then let us know and we will put them in a future Newsletter. Here's some initial tips.

**Crop covering** – Invest in some insect-proof mesh and cover onions, garlic and leeks after planting, before female flies lay their eggs on the crop (see links for details).

**Crop rotation** – Don't plant this year's crop in the same ground where you grew last year's crop. Adult flies hatch from pupae overwintering in the soil.

**Pesticide control** - None of the pesticides available to home gardeners for use on leeks, onions and allied plants is likely to give control of allium leaf miner.

More hints and tips: -

- [Allotment & Gardens - What is Allium Leaf Miner?](#)
- [Garden Focused - Identify, prevent, treat allium leaf miner](#)
- [Simply Gardening - How To Control Allium Leaf Miner](#)
- [The RHS - Allium leaf miner, background & tips](#)
- [The RHS - Insect-proof mesh, pros and cons](#)

Don't forget, if you have any handy hints & Tips to deal with this pest, please let us know.



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
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 **41**. Plot viewings were restarted at the end of January, we now have eight new tenants with some 20 plots (due to splitting of larger plots into mini plots) still to be allocated.

**Away from your plot for an extended period?** – We were advised recently by the council that several tenants that have suffered various ill health problems over the winter. Please do let us know directly if you will 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. The latest updates are those listed below.

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 (16<sup>th</sup> June 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.org.uk/covid-19-precautions)

### Memorial Plot (F30)

The Committee will be talking to those who have already for volunteered for this work will be publishing a schedule of work to start in early February. If you would like to be part of this working party, please let the Committee know via the email at the end of this newsletter.

### The Pond

The Committee has been asked about the status of the Pond. We are as frustrated as everyone, but until we can get all the drainage issues sorted out in that area, it cannot be completed. For the time being the Committee will focus its efforts on completing the Memorial Plot first.

### AGM – 2023

A note for your diaries. This year's AGM will be on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March** and will be held at the **Oakwood Centre in Woodley at 7.30pm**.

The Committee encourages all tenants to attend this important event as there will be Committee elections as well on the night. We will be publishing a Special Bulletin with further information in February.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk)