



WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION at Reading Road

GARDENING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Welcome to this edition of the WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION newsletter. Some of you may have noticed a lack of newsletters in recent months. The decision was taken, by the committee to change issue dates from monthly to 3 monthly – to coincide with seasons and it seemed best to launch with SPRING as this is the time of year when everything starts to take off.

Being 3 monthly also means it can contain more features and there will be less repetition. It would be great to have input from members – articles, photos, top money saving tips, favourite allotment recipes etc...

Please let get in touch via the email contact readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk or via Face Book <https://www.facebook.com/groups/404954300776537> of things you would like included. If you have any photos to share these would be great to save and use in future issues. HAPPY ALLOTMENTING!

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DATES for your DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 25th March

(See page 2)

POP UP Shop

Good Friday – 29th March

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 25th March

Oakwood Centre

7:30pm

Come along and meet the current committee and be part of the process to reelect and elect the new one.

Come along and find out what has been happening in the past year and what is planned for the next.

This is your chance to have your say and to ask questions.

Everyone is very welcome. New to Reading Road? Come along and meet other allotmenters – everyone is very friendly.

MEMORIAL PLOT

CAN YOU HELP?

The Memorial Plot (F30) was created to remember and commemorate our members that have passed away. Ultimately, it would be lovely for it to be a quiet place for reflection, to sit and take a rest from weeding, to meet up with allotment neighbours and friends for a cuppa and a chat.

It desperately needs some more willing volunteers to commit to giving some time, on a regular basis (weekly, fortnightly or even monthly) to join the very small team that are currently trying to establish it as the lovely place originally planned. Please contact the committee, if you could spare some time. Please keep an eye out for Special Bulletins and the FB page for other planned working party groups.

MARCH - To Do's

Jobs on the plot!

With such a wet Spring, it may mean a slighter later than usual start to prepping the plot than usual. If beds have been covered over, or are not too waterlogged now is the ideal time to begin weeding as warmer weather (hopefully!) means weed growth resumes with a vengeance. Keep on top of weeds by regularly hoeing and hand weeding.

Tidy up herbs

Apply fertilizers to boost the nutritional content of your soil before sowing and planting begins.

Cut flower patch

- Sow half-hardy annuals under cover
- Direct sow hardy annuals once the ground warms up
- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Prick out and pot on seedlings as necessary
- Harvest anemones, ranunculus, early-flowering narcissi and daffodils
- Order biennial and perennial seed to sow in June
- Order late-flowering and autumn flowering bulbs
- Make a batch of compost tea to fee the soil weekly throughout the summer

Sow

Sow a few seeds outdoors, if the soil has been covered and warmed in preparation. Otherwise sow under coches or indoors.

- Aubergine
- Broad beans
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Summer cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Chillies
- Cucumber
- Kphl rabi
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Onions
- Peas
- Peppers
- Radish
- Salad leaves
- Spinach
- Spring onion
- Tomatoes
- turnips

A handy guide for Sowing & Harvesting

Sow and harvest chart

Click on the images for a larger version

Plant

- Onions and shallots
- Asparagus
- Garlic
- Jerusalem artichoke
- Rhubarb
- Soft and tree fruits
- First early potatoes by the end of the month

Harvest

- Brussels sprouts
- Winter cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Celeriac
- Chicory
- Endive
- Jerusalem artichokes
- Kale
- Leeks
- Parsnips
- Sprouting broccoli
- Swedes
- Winter radish
- Winter salad leaves
- First rhubarb

Plant

- Globe artichokes
- Beetroot
- Broad beans
- Calebrese
- Cauliflower
- Onion sets
- Peas
- Potatoes
- Salads
- spinach

Harvest

- Asparagus
- Spring cabbage
- Kale
- Leeks
- Parsnips
- Rhubarb
- Sprouting broccoli
- Salad leaves
- Swiss chard

Cut flower patch

- Pot up dahlias and put under cover to sprout
- Direct sow hardy annuals
- Sow tender annuals under cover
- Plant Autumn-flowering bulbs
- Keep pricking out and potting on seedlings
- Harvest anenomes, cowslips, cow parsley, tulips, forget-me nots, iris, narcissi, daffodils and ranunculus
- Make nettle tea

Sow

- Aubergine
- Basil
- Broad beans
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Summer cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celeriac
- Celery
- Chillies
- Courgettes
- Cucumber
- Dill
- Kohl rabi
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Onions
- Parsley
- Parsnip
- Peas
- Peppers
- Radish
- Salad leaves
- Spinach
- Spring onion
- Squash
- Tomatoes
- turnips

JOBS on the plot!

The weather can still be every unpredictable – so keep an eye on forecasts and consider the state of your soil before rushing to open the seed packets. The list of things to direct sow is vast. Don't be tempted to over sow – plan for progressional sowing – leaving space to do so. Be ready with horticultural fleece to protect from any late frosts.

Support peas – twiggy sticks are best and free!

Feed fruit bushes, trees and canes with slow-release general fertilizer and then apply a mulcj of well-rotted manure or compost.

JOBS on the plot!

May is a seductive month – longer days and warmer temperatures but take care – there is always a risk of late frosts.

Keep on top of the weeding.

Take note of any pests – deal with promptly. Try to use organic methods of pest control.

Start watering young plants.

Net fruit bushes

Plant

- Last of the seed potatoes
- Giant pumpkin seedlings
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbages
- Cauliflowers
- Celery
- Globe artichokes
- Celeriac
- Fennel
- Kohl rabi
- Chillies and peppers (end of month)
- Aubergines (end of month)
- Courgettes and summer squash (protect with cloches)
- Outdoor cucumbers (end of month)
- Lettuces
- Marrows
- Peas
- Rhubarb
- Sprouting broccoli
- Sweetcorn
- Sweet potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Herbs

Harvest

- Asparagus
- Baby globe artichokes
- Baby turnips
- Fresh 'green' garlic
- Oriental leaves

Cut flower patch

- Pot on dahlias, if necessary. Don't plant out yet if any signs of a late frost.
- Harden off and then plant out seedlings, if no sign of frost
- Harvest lilac, alliums, cow parsley, cowslips, forget me nots, peonies, red Campion, sweet peas, sweet rocket, sweet Williams and tulips
- Feed plants with nettle tea

Sow

- Beetroot
- Corn salad
- Cucumbers
- French beans
- Runner beans
- Sweetcorn
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbages
- Calabrese
- Carrots
- Cauliflowers
- Chicory
- Fennel
- French beans
- Kale
- Kohl rabi
- Land cress
- Oriental leaves
- Pes
- Radishes
- Rocket
- Runner beans
- Salad leaves
- Spring onions
- Sprouting broccoli
- Summer purslane
- Swiss chard
- Turnips

Reminders

Security – please ensure that you close and lock the gate when you enter or leave the site.

Bonfires – Bonfires are not permitted on site until 1st October 2023.

Rubbish

Green waste should not be dumped on anywhere on site that is not part of your plot.

Speed limit – The maximum speed limit for all vehicles is 5 m.p.h – please help us to keep everyone safe and avoid damage to the roadways by maintaining this speed.

Honey – Honey from the allotment bees is available to purchase from either Steve Cook (07471 207565) or Paul Moffit (07813 078199)

HAPAA – The Huntley & Palmer Allotment Association website can be found by following this link <https://hapaa.org.uk/> Join them to gain access to their trading shed and newsletter.

Contacts

Many thanks to Theresa for stepping into the role of Vice-Chair for the committee. We are please to welcome Caroline, Debbie and Peter B to the committee.

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 via the email address

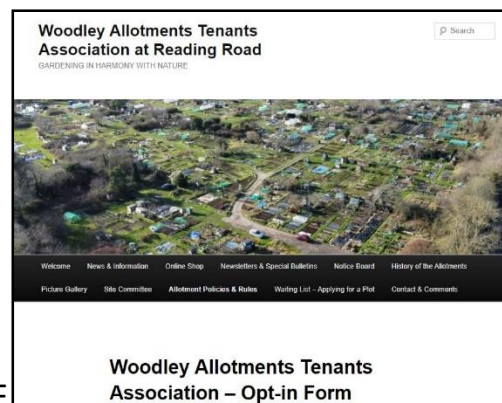
readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk

- Chair – Sarah Lane (H28)
- Vice-Chair – Teresa Buley (E18)
- Treasurer - Kerri Evans (C29a)
- Secretary - **VACANT**
- John Anderson - (H27)
- Peter Wheat – (M25a)
- Debbie Ballard (K25A)
- Caroline Chaytor (K25A)
- Launchpad Rep – Peter Buley (E18)

Our website can be found here:

<https://woodley-allotments.org.uk/>

Do you receive our newsletters and SPECIAL BULLETINS by email?



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