



Woodley Allotment Newsletter - July 2019 Edition 64

Notices

Allotment Plot Waiting List

Plot inspections are continuing and a number of Plots have been released to new Tenants from the waiting list, which currently stands at 12.

The Main Gate

It seems that the Main Gate has been left open a number of times in June. The Allotment committee would like to remind all allotment holders that you must always close and lock the main gate after entering or leaving the site. It is important that we all try and keep the site as secure as possible.

Speed Limit

As all plot holders will see, we now have a number of new 5 MPH Speed Limit signs erected around the site. Please keep your speed down, this is particularly important as more plot holders are now bringing their children onto the site. A number of persistent offenders have now been notified by the council.

Road Repairs/BBQ

Yes it's that time again and the committee will need volunteers to carry out the annual Road Upkeep work. As with last year, we will do this work over the August Bank Holiday on Saturday 24th August, exact times to be confirmed.

Also as per last year, a FREE BBQ will be on offer to all volunteers following their hard work in repairing road damage caused by usage, weather and speeding car drivers.

Birds Being Trapped

There have been a number of cases recently of birds being trapped in Fruit Cages/Netting. Please check your plots and make sure that any net-holes, open ends, doors are secured so that birds cannot get inside and have no way of escaping.

July – Some To Do's

July is usually one of the hottest and driest months so a lot of time will be spent watering. Reduce water loss and so save yourself some time by mulching with a layer of organic matter to help preserve moisture, however, this may encourage slugs so keep an eye out for these pests. In the meantime, here are some jobs to be thinking about for July.

- Start harvesting early potatoes, although they do not store as well as the main crop varieties, they will store until finished.

- There are still things to sow in July such as; Spring Cabbage, Chicory, Chinese cabbage, Kohl-Rabi, Lettuce, Peas, French Beans, Beetroot, Carrots, Radishes & Turnips
- Plant out, Leaks, Broccoli, Calabrese, Brussels Sprouts and Cabbage
- Keep an eye out for pests, including, Cabbage White Fly, Black Fly and Aphids
- Water as much as needed
- Keep Hoeing to keep the weeds down and to stop water from evaporating.

Projects Updates

LaunchPad



Launchpad continues to flourish with many groups of corporate volunteers having been on site in recent weeks.

The plots are now very well developed and the first donated Poly-tunnel is in the process of being erected. More Corporate volunteers are expected during July.

We are still looking for more Allotment Site volunteers to help with this project, even for simple tasks like watering - as corporate volunteers are not on site every day. Perhaps you can come along and lend a guiding hand to some of the corporate volunteers; as many have not been involved in growing plants before. If you can help however small, please contact us on readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk.

Bug Hotels

This had been progressing well until we lost our first partially built Bug-Hotel to; shall we say a misunderstanding! We will commence the creation of a number of replacements during July and each one will be marked clearly and placed at various locations around the site. Keep an eye out for one appearing at a plot near you!!

Front Gate - Plots L1/L2

The Council continue to address the potential for flooding at the Front Gates - though this is probably the last thing on anyone's mind at the moment - however planning ahead is important and with that in mind as part of the rejuvenation of Plots L1/L2 (the ones just inside the gate on the left) we are planning that L1 will be given over to a large pond that will 'collect' water from any excess water that arrives through future flooding in that area.

This pond will be planted with water-loving plants etc. so that it can act as a 'partner' to Plot L2 which the committee is in the process of reviewing reconfiguration plans for. Stay tuned for more updates.

Bee Roadzz

The meeting held at the Oakwood Centre at the start of June was well attended and has set the ball rolling, the project team expect to publish more information about the next steps in the coming week and we will also carry these plans here in subsequent Newsletters. Keep looking for updates.

Bee Hives

Woodley Town Council have agreed in principal that we can set up a dedicated (fenced-off) area on the Allotment Site for Bee Hives. They are currently producing a policy for this, so that we can go ahead.

Although the committee have yet to have sight of the policy document, we gather that the relevant 'Allotment Plot' holders involved in setting up and managing the hives will need to have completed a relevant approved training course and have suitable qualifications.

Members of the Allotment Committee have no experience themselves in bee keeping and therefore would like to encourage interested/experienced tenants to get involved, and perhaps set up a working party with other like minded people to get this going.

If you are interested in getting involved or have experience you can share, please get in contact via readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk.

...and finally, as temperatures continue to climb, here's some tips from an interesting article we found online.

12 Easy Ways to Help Your Garden Thrive in Hot Weather

So far this summer is promising to be a hot one. With the temperatures climbing and much of the east coast worrying about droughts like the ones they faced last summer a productive garden may seem like a mere dream. However there's several easy tricks that can keep your plants cool, productive, and even lessen your water usage.

For the full article, click [here](#)

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: readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk