



Editor: Mike McNamara - E14

Notices

Allotment Plot Waiting List

Plot inspections are still ongoing. Six unworked plots were handed over to new Tenants in September. The current waiting list now has ten people on it.

Site Security

The committee has been informed of a number of thefts from plots during the last few weeks. The committee/WTC will be looking to this over the next few weeks & studying CCTV images to see if they throw up any additional relevant information.

Bonfires.

From the 1st Oct. 2019, you can now have a bonfire from 4pm. Don't forget that in 2020, new rules mean that bonfires will **NOT** be allowed onsite after the 1st May 2020 and until the 1st Oct. 2020.

Plot holders still need to be considerate to our site neighbours & should look at strength & direction of prevailing winds before lighting their bonfires.

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Important Housekeeping Points

The Main Gate – 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.

Speed Limit – The speed limit of 5MPH seems to have been ignored by a number of Tenants recently. All Plot holders will have received a copy of a letter sent out by the council a copy of which has also now been attached to the Front Gate entrance.

October – Some To Do's

Autumn is almost under way & with October here, lovely winter digging springs to mind! Remember that the clocks also go back an hour at the end of this month so grab every minute of daylight that you can before the dark days of winter are soon upon us. In the meantime, here are some jobs to be thinking about for October.

- It's time to harvest the last of the crops such as runner beans and courgettes, as well as pumpkins and squash. It's also the time to harvest main-crop potatoes
- You can sow some winter hardy peas & broad beans now such as 'Aquadulce', a particularly hardy broad bean variety
- Rhubarb crowns can also be planted now; established clumps can also be divided.
- Brussels sprouts can blow over in heavy winds when laden with crops, so stake them now with a sturdy cane to prevent this
- Also, lift and store any Florence fennel bulbs before they are damaged by frost
- Winter Onion sets and Garlic can also be planted this month.
- Now is also a good time to sow a green manure, such as grazing rye, over any earth that is going to be left bare over winter – it will suppress weeds and will add nutrients when dug into the soil in spring. Find out how to [improve the soil with green manure](#)
- Complete the summer pruning of soft fruit bushes, apple and pear trees. Feed all late crops with a general fertiliser such as pelleted chicken manure
- Dig up and compost any plants that have finished their season.

Items of interest

Plots L1/L2 – Pond Update

We are just about to purchase that various linings needed and expect sand to be delivered for the base during October so we should all start to see some changes by the gate in the coming weeks.

Launchpad Charity – Update

from Carolyn Davies – Lead Coordinator for our Allotment site with Launchpad.

We continue to host corporate volunteers on our site from various companies including Hewlett Packard Enterprises (see picture) and have recently been mentioned on the WTC website, see this [link](#) for more about that.



We are expecting three more groups during October/November, but as the growing season slows down, this will be more about harvesting current produce.

The donated poly-tunnel, shipping container and other items are in full use and are proving very useful for the visiting corporate and onsite volunteers.

We continue to seek to help with this project.

If you can come along for a few hours, please let us know via the usual email address at the end of this Newsletter.

Pallets & Wood Chip

We are now receiving a regular supply of Pallets and Wood Chip. Pallets can be found either by the 'Shed' or next to the Launchpad project plots.

This is where you will also find the Wood Chip pile which is free for all Plot holders to use on their own Plots, not to be taken of site.

Plot Volunteers

We are also still looking for volunteers who may have some spare time to help other plot holders? We are compiling a list of 'helpers' that can assist other plot holders when they are struggling with their plots due to ill-health etc.

Let us know if you can help via the normal email address.

Seed Catalogues

The Dobie Catalogues will be available from mid-October, copies of which will be put in the 'Shed' and the 'box' by the gate.

Orders with Money (Cheques) need to be back to Teresa Buley by the end of October.

We will be issuing a Special Bulletin about this shortly.

Autumn & Winter on the Allotment

We have been asked by a number of people who have just started with a new plot, what to grow over the winter; so we have repeated this item.

With next seasons seeds in mind, here's an interesting article from the [RHS](#) about growing winter vegetables.

Most winter vegetable plants are fully hardy and will cope well with cold winter weather, but if hard frosts threaten then you can always throw some fleece across them to provide some extra protection.

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

Bee Hives Project

Proposed policy has been approved by WTC. Initial area has been agreed and flailed ready for fencing.

Carolyn Davies will be contacting interested parties to confirm final numbers of those interested.

Bee Roadzz Project

A steering group has been set up and will be meeting again in next few weeks. WTC have now cleared areas and are ready for autumn planting.

More updates in the coming weeks.

Onsite Toilet

The committee had received a number of comments about the Onsite Toilet (*located nearby the Shed in case some Tenants don't realise we have one*).

This is a 'connected' (*to the mains sewers*) toilet and is a facility that not many other Allotment Plots have at their disposal.

We would ask all Tenants that use this facility to leave it in a clean and decent state ready for the next user.

Winter on the Allotment

As another Winter approaches, we have included some interesting articles with links about working allotments in the Winter.

Why winter is a winning time on the allotment from 'Sharpen Your Spades Blog'

Do you wave goodbye to your allotment when the winter arrives?

One Sunday in early November, I stopped digging, rested on my spade and looked around. Despite being the day of the week most plot holders visit the site,

I was alone.

There has been a noticeable decline in plot holders tending their plots in recent

weeks and I wondered if many people shut up shop on the allotment when the winter sets in? I decided to ask the Twittersphere.



Clearly, this isn't the case for the twittering allotment gardeners.

However, when the winter sets in with its cool temperatures, low levels of light and short days, there are many who lock up their sheds and shut down their allotments until spring.

I only have to think back to last year when we faced washout conditions on our plot to understand the weather in winter can be unforgiving.

However, subject to the weather, there are many good reasons to keep up with the visits to your allotment garden during the winter months.

For the full article; click [here](#).

How to manage a waterlogged allotment from 'Sharpen Your Spade Blog'

What is waterlogging?

Waterlogging occurs when the soil becomes saturated. On our plot, the pooled water was an obvious sign but water doesn't have to appear on the surface of the soil for there to be a potential problem with waterlogging.

When allotments are waterlogged, air pockets in the soil fill with water and the roots of the plants are unable to get oxygen. Carbon dioxide and ethylene also build-up as the plants are unable to

respire in the saturated soil.

Most of the time waterlogging doesn't last long enough for plants to die. However, if allotments remain waterlogged for a significant period of time, the lack of oxygen in the root area will cause the root tissue to decompose.

How to solve the problem of waterlogging

Waterlogging can be prevented by achieving two objectives: Aerating the soil and enabling drainage of excess water.

For the full article; click [here](#).

Vegetables all year round from 'garden organic'

Living in the UK, with distinct seasons, it is a challenge to keep yourself in vegetables all year round. By late autumn, it feels there is little left to harvest. Even in spring, when plants are bursting into growth, there are few garden-fresh vegetables available. Growers often have to wait until June – or later if you live further north – for first sowings to mature.

Whether you grow in an allotment, garden or window boxes, here's some advice and practical tips on how to avoid those 'hungry gaps' and to extend your harvest throughout the year.

We look at

- Planning – what to grow and when
- Sowing – getting an early start; and summer sowing for later crops
- How to fill gaps – different plant varieties; quick growing veg to fill the empty spaces; cut and come again
- Crop protection – greenhouse, polytunnel and cold frames

Planning is important

Planning what you are going to grow, when and where, helps you decide when to sow or

plant out.

There are a few things to consider...

For the full article; click [here](#).

5 Tips for Improving Your Raised Bed Garden Soil

Wondering how often, or even better yet, how do you improve the soil in raised beds? You are officially convinced on the benefits of raised garden beds and maybe you've been gardening in raised beds for years.

Whether you are new to raised bed gardening or you're a raised bed gardening pro, we've got some gardening tips below on raised bed soil maintenance. Raised beds, in a way, are like large containers. If you deplete the soil nutrients over the course of one or more gardening seasons, you need to rebuild it. Sure, organic fertilizers are great to add in the spring. But, they are not the complete answer in improving your soil quality.

For the full article; click [here](#).

... and Finally

"When you increase the number of gardens, you increase the number of heavens too!"

Mehmet Murat ildan

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:

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