

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road
Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - JANUARY
2023
Issue 106

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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

Welcome to 2023

The Committee would like to wish all tenants a Happy new Year and wish everyone a successful upcoming growing season.

Fruit Bush & Honey Tabletop Sale - Launchpad Site

Sunday 22nd January - 12:00 - 13:00

If you didn't order any fruit bushes in advance, you are in luck. We have spare...

- Gooseberries
- Raspberries
- Blackcurrant
- Blackberries (thorn-less)

Also available will be local **Honey** on the day from our Bee-Keepers Paul & Steve.

So do come along, grab a bargain and meet the committee.

If raining, we shall move into the polytunnel at Launchpad site.

A new Editor for the Newsletter

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, our current Newsletter Editor will be stepping down at the next 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 taking on this role, please let us know via the usual email address of readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk and the committee will be back in touch.

January – Some To Do's

January is here & we say goodbye to the last few freezing weeks. Hopefully, if the forecast rain allows, we can get back out and complete some of those winter tasks. So, here's some suggestions to think about.

- Sow rows of the super-hardy broad bean 'Aquadulce Claudia' or 'The Sutton' now if the ground is unfrozen. Use a cloche to protect seedlings and to warm the ground to speed up germination. Alternatively, sow your seed in trays on a sunny windowsill or in the greenhouse and try using a root training propagator to form a stronger root system
- Even if you are still harvesting last year's Leaks, don't forget to start 2023's harvest off using varieties 'Lyon' or 'Mussleburgh' this month
- The recent frosts will have 'enhanced' any Parsnips still in the ground so now is a suitable time to harvest a few
- Towards the end of the month when the weather and soil conditions allow, plant out soft fruit bushes. Spray all fruit trees and bushes with a garlic winter wash on a fine day; do not spray in frosty conditions
- It is also suitable time to start your Runner Bean trench for kitchen scraps
- January is a good month to continue with any plot maintenance and to clean/repair any tools that need it
- 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”



Planning your Allotment for 2023

As we welcome yet more new tenants in 2023, we have set out below some hints & tips from the Welcome Pack to help with planning the 2023 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](#).

Raised Beds and other structures

Raised Beds – Various type and styles, here's a few links to different plans.



- [How to Construct Raised Beds – Raised Deep Bed Growing](#)
- [Benefits of Raised Beds on Allotment Gardens](#)
- [How to Build a Raised Bed from 1 Pallet!](#)

Compost Bins and other stuff!



- [Compost Bin out of Wooden Pallets](#)
- [How to Make a Compost Bin from Pallets](#)
- [Making a Compost Bin from Pallets](#)
- [How to make Pallet Bench](#)

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
Com 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 **52**. The Committee on behalf of Woodley Town Council suspended allotment viewings during December, these will restart in January.

Some of the plots that have been handed back to the Committee from WTC will also be split up to boost the number of vacant plots we have available for new tenants,

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. 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 (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 has continued 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.

AGM – 2023

A note for your diaries. This year's AGM will be held towards the end of March, date to be confirmed shortly and will be held at the Oakwood Centre in Woodley at 7.30pm.

The committee encourages all Tenants to attend this important even 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 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