

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road
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Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - MARCH
2023
Issue 108

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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

Special Bulletins

AGM - Keep an eye out for a Special Bulletin all about the upcoming AGM to be held on **Monday 27th March** in the **Oakwood Centre in Woodley at 7.30pm**.

The Committee encourages all tenants to attend this important event as there will be full Committee elections as well on the night.

Memorial Plot (F30) - As we begin work on the Memorial Plot (F30) this month our first planned work dates for this will be on the 9th, 10th & 12th of March.

More details of this will follow another Special Bulletin. If you can come along and help, please let us know on the usual email of readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk.

Technical ‘Guru’ - The Committee is looking for a volunteer to look after the running of the Association's Website & our internal email set-up from the next AGM in March.

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 with you.

Vehicle Tyres

The Committee would like to remind all tenants that the bringing of Vehicle Tyres onto the Allotment Site is banned under the 2023 Tenancy Agreement. All Vehicle Tyres must be removed from plots as soon as possible.

Bonfires

Only allowed until 30th April and only after 4pm.

March – Some To Do's

March is here already! Springtime and the new growing season approaches. Keep a weather eye out for any frosts! But with the ground slowly warming up here are a few suggestions to be thinking about in March.

- Sow Brussels sprouts seed in a cold greenhouse or on the windowsill
- Other seeds to sow include leaks, lettuce, broad beans
- Early Beetroot 'boltardy' can be direct sown
- Early varieties of chitted potatoes can be planted out, provided the soil is not too cold or wet. Make sure that you protect them from frost, especially when the young shoots emerge
- March is the right time to establish an asparagus bed
- Plant out onion sets, shallots and garlic before they start to produce shoots.
- Still enough time to force rhubarb, too, by covering it with a forcer or upturned dustbin or bucket
- Bare-root fruit trees and bushes should be planted by now
- Complete any unfinished digging and winter pruning
- Continue to set out cloches to warm up the seed bed soil
- Get the hoe out and get on top of any weeds that are germinating
- 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”



Volunteers needed for Bramble Clearing



We are looking for volunteers to help trim brambles that have been identified growing near the roads that scratch our cars and clearing saplings in certain areas.

We have suggested some dates below, so please let us know which date you may be able to help and we shall pick 2 of the most popular dates. Sessions will be 1-2 hours maximum.

- Sat 11th March
- Sun 12th March
- Fri 17th March
- Sat 18th March

We will where possible be adhering to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

So don't delay, reply today with your preference date, name and contact details to vice-chair@woodley-allotments.org.uk

A new allotment – where to start?

There is an amazing amount of online information about this subject – *the newsletter editor works in a four year rotation* – but you can also have a three year plan. Here's some more information about the subject.

- [Crop Rotation for Growing Vegetables](#) from GrowVeg
- [Planting plan and crop rotation](#) from Garden Organic
- [The Three Year Crop Rotation Plan](#) from Allotments & Gardens
- [The Four Year Crop Rotation Plan](#) from Allotments & Gardens

You may have taken over a plot that has not been used for quite a while and needs some work done on it to get it back in shape and one of those things that will help is adding organic matter back in. It will take a bit of time to build up your own [compost heap](#), so what to use?

Again, a wide variety of information is online, here's a few (*in no particular order*) that may help...

- [Adding Organic Matter in the autumn](#) – from the Compost Shop
- [Ten Ways to Improve your Soil](#) – from Quickcrop Blog
- [9 Ways to Improve Garden Soil](#) – from Gardenista

The Committee also publishes a Welcome Pack for new tenants. If you would another copy you can download a copy from our [website](#).

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
Kohl 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 **21**. Plot viewings continue and we welcomed 10 new tenants during February. We still have 15 plots (due to splitting of larger plots into mini plots) still to be allocated via further Plot viewings.

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 (16th June 2022) advice can be found at...

- [UK.GOV – Coronavirus update latest details](#)
- [National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Precautions](#)

Huntley & Palmer Allotment Association

Our site has had a long relationship with the H&P site, selling items via a Pop-Up shed on our site and reselling plants and bushes.

Whilst we do have an online eShop, H&P have a much bigger 'Shed' from which they sell a vast array of products from compost through to seeds, onion sets and many other items.

You need to be a member of their Association to buy in the 'Shed'. Membership is open to everyone, and costs just £1.50 per year.

Just roll up and join. Payment is by bank card only.

For more information and location details see their [website](#).

Honey Sales

There is still some honey left from last year's harvest.

If you are interested in obtaining a jar, cost is £7.00; then please contact either Paul Moffit 07813 078199 or Steve Cook on 07471 207565 and they will arrange all the details.

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 are currently allowed.

But only up to the 30th April 2023.

You must 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