

SWAY ALLOTMENTS

Newsletter, May 2020



WELCOME

to the first edition
of Sway Allotment
News...

As with all first editions it will be good for composting, especially if you have an electronic copy! We hope to keep everyone informed about what is happening at the Allotments and initially will publish twice a year.

Firstly we would like to welcome the new ploholders who have joined us since October.

Please see the noticeboard for the latest information. If you have an email address but did not receive this newsletter electronically, please check your spam folder and if it isn't there, please notify the Parish Clerk at clerk@sway-pc.gov.uk



SWAY ASSOCIATION OF ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

Chairman: Brent Knox ~ Secretary: Mike Cranidge
Committee: Ian Stone, Derek Elkins, Pam Capon, Mike Green
Parish Clerk: Katie Walding



JOBS FOR THE WEEKEND

and the next three months...

MAY

Beware of frosts in May.

Sow beetroot, lettuce, spring onions, and radish.

Plant sweet corn, runner and french beans.

When sowing seeds directly into the soil, water the drill before sowing seeds not afterwards.



JUNE

Plant winter broccoli and leeks.

Continue sowing lettuce and beetroot.

Plant marrow, courgettes and squashes.

If shallot foliage is going yellow lift, dry and store (the shallot not the foliage).



JULY

Sow carrots for winter use.

Continue lifting shallots and planting leeks.

There is still time for a final sowing of peas.



Remember: keep that hoe moving!

Bob Marsh

SPRING PLOT INSPECTIONS

Committee members and I walked the entire allotment gardens on 1st May, and came away really impressed with the quality and condition of most plots. The hours of work that are obviously put in to create such a beautiful - and productive - space are a credit to you all. I was very impressed overall. Thank you for your dedication and I am so glad that we have been able to keep the gardens open during the Covid-19 crisis and lockdown. A more tranquil and spacious place to enable isolation and distancing we cannot imagine. Please stay safe.

Katie Walding, Parish Clerk

NEWS & REMINDERS

Skip... There will be a large skip at the allotments which should be available from the end of May for allotment rubbish only. For those who have been asked to tidy their compost areas this is a great chance to get rid of rusty metal, rotten wood and rubbish.

Wind in the Willows... Ratty continues to be a problem around the site. We have distributed 11 traps and more will be allocated this month. According to internet articles rats really dislike peppermint and bay trees so having these around compost areas may help.

Mower... There are two mowers available for general use and we try to keep them maintained. This has been more difficult during the lockdown but hopefully it will get easier in the coming weeks. If you are not sure how to use the mower a member of the committee would be pleased to show you and instructions are on mower shed doors.

Bonfires... There is currently a high fire risk. A fire occurred on the forest recently, so please do not have any fires. Please **DO NOT PUT MORE RUBBISH** in the bonfire area as it is full.



Paths... Plot holders are reminded to keep these regularly mowed and free from trip hazards. One plot holder had driven a wooden stake into the path which was tripped over when we were doing the annual risk assessment (don't laugh!). Please make sure canes are safe and not overhanging paths. Many are at eye level and could cause an eye injury.

Gates... These are scheduled to be replaced this year and the Clerk is currently seeking contractors to do the work.

Allotments in the time of Covid-19... Please keep socially distant from other plot holders, and do not share tools. Wash hands and/or wear gloves where appropriate. Thank you to KatyS who has been regularly cleaning the gate catches with a dilute bleach solution, which helps, but cannot provide constant coverage as people come and go.



Dig for victory and stay alert!

***Good wishes from
your Allotments Committee***