

SWAY ALLOTMENTS

Newsletter #2, September 2020

WELCOME

to the Autumn
edition of Sway
Allotment News...

Hello and welcome to the second edition of Sway Allotment News, the best selling (as it costs nothing!) international (as someone viewed the last edition whilst in lockdown in France!) greenest publication about Sway Allotments ever published! And our readership is growing.

Here's what has been happening since the last edition...



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, Tony Wade

Parish Clerk: Katie Walding

NEW GATES



Hopefully, soon after you read this, the view to the allotments will be obscured by the erection of new gates which should make entry and exit much easier.

JOBS FOR THE WEEKEND

and through the dark days of winter...

SEPTEMBER

Plant out spring cabbage plants in rows about 9 inches apart, then when Spring arrives cut every other one as Spring Greens leaving the remaining ones to mature as cabbages. As the plot becomes empty, remember Christmas, and keep hoe, hoe, hoeing, as weeds do not know when to stop growing.

For the flower power generation sow Sweet Williams and Cornflowers for early cut flowers.



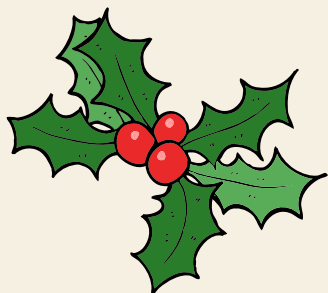
OCTOBER

Plant garlic cloves, sow Sweet Peas under cover for early flowers. Dig out perennial weeds. Start spreading the manure on empty plots

NOVEMBER

Remember, remember the fifth of November, I forget why...

Oh yes! Dig in your manure or compost and sow Broad Beans 'Aquadulce Claudia' or 'The Sutton' for an early crop. Sow at least 6 inches deep to protect from the birds and the mice.



DECEMBER

Shallots were traditionally planted on the shortest day. I plant mine in 3 and ½ inch pots and plant out when conditions allow in the Spring. Read your catalogues and plan for next year.

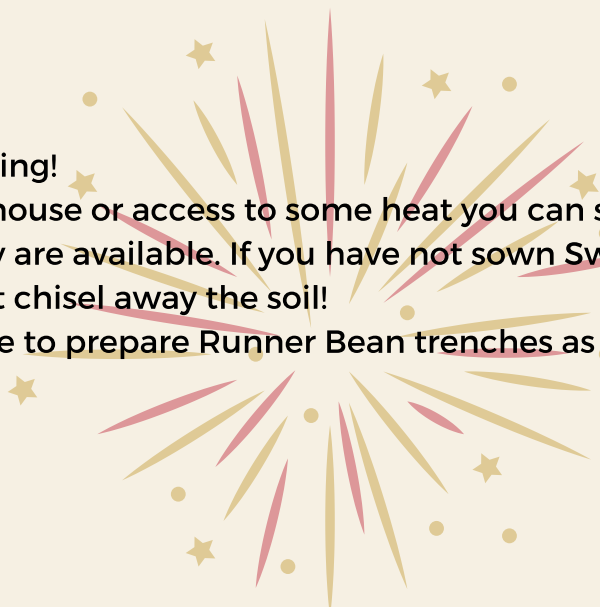


JANUARY

Happy New Gardening!

If you have a greenhouse or access to some heat you can sow onion seed. Start chitting potatoes when they are available. If you have not sown Sweet Peas in the autumn you can do so now - just chisel away the soil!

It is also a good time to prepare Runner Bean trenches as it saves time when it is busy later.



Stay Safe, Bob Marsh

NEWS & REMINDERS

Foodbank... Plot holders with surplus crops have been kindly donating to the New Forest Food Bank. The organisers of the Food Bank (also known as Basics Bank) are very grateful to all who have contributed and thank everyone who has made this possible, and such a success.

RATS! Progress has been muted. About seven rats have been caught and Phil Morgan is champion Rat Catcher, with three.



The good news is that a stoat has been spotted at the allotment and provided it remains it will strike terror into those pesky rats.

Thefts... Unfortunately between the end of June and mid August we experienced a range of thefts in the northern section of the allotment site. Crops including gooseberries, potatoes and broccoli have all been filched together with buckets and tools. The Committee has placed barbed wire on the fence in the northern corner. This seems to have stopped at present but please stay vigilant and report anything stolen.

Personal Compost Areas...

Generally these areas are improving and being better managed which is essential if we are to get on top of the Rat problem. Compost areas that are not managed and regularly turned are ideal locations to harbour the rats and provide a breeding ground. So if your compost area needs attention please work on it this autumn.

Allotment Inspections

The late summer inspections have gone very well. Overall the allotments have looked lovely and well cared for with only a few plots failing the 75% cultivation requirement and thus requiring improvement. Please remember that if, for some temporary reason e.g. illness, your plot is not being cultivated to that 75% level the Committee may be able to help out to stop plots becoming overgrown.

REMINDER

Rents become due
on 15 October
Look out for your
renewal notice

With the advent of Covid 19 we experienced unprecedented use of the word unprecedented.

To escape from this word the allotments provided a much needed green space and opportunity for exercise and fresh air. As a consequence the allotments have looked blooming marvellous.

However despite the relaxation of lock down and beautiful allotments the virus remains, meaning good hygiene and social distancing is still very necessary.

From the desk of the Clerk:

Green Bag Waste Scheme

Increasingly, we have been experiencing long periods of dry weather which has caused Forestry England to repeatedly issue high fire risk warnings. The risk to the forest is real. This has been coupled with residents, particularly those in Back Lane, complaining about smoke. Consequently, it has not been safe to have fires at the allotments for many months and we are only now starting to be able to burn.



To help manage these difficulties in a more sustainable and green way, the Parish Council has arranged with New Forest District Council to subscribe to ten green waste bags, which will be emptied every two weeks throughout the year (except over Christmas). We are currently looking at ways to allocate the use of the bags, and more information will be emailed and added to the notice board in the near future.



Sway Allotment Association AGM

Due to Covid-19 it will not be possible to hold the AGM in the Church Rooms this year. We therefore propose to hold the AGM virtually between 27-30 September.

Committee Elections

The current Committee must step down annually but are eligible for re-election. If the ploholders would like the current Committee to be re-elected, ploholders are ask to vote to this effect during the virtual AGM period (27-30 September) by sending an email or letter to the Parish Clerk.

Any ploholder who would like to join the Association Committee can nominate themselves with a seconder, by emailing or writing to the Parish Clerk by 10 September.

Contributing and Voting on Resolutions

Ploholders who wish to raise any suggestions for the agenda should send them to the Parish Clerk; these will then be considered and responded to by the new Committee. OR if something is of major concern, they may propose a resolution to be voted on. Suggestions and resolutions for inclusion on the agenda should be submitted by 10 September and the agenda will be published on 14 September.

Votes for or against resolutions on the agenda should be sent via email or post to the parish Clerk between 27th and 30th September.

clerk@sway-pc.gov.uk or via the Parish Office, Jubilee Field Pavilion, Station Road, Sway SO41 6BE.

Minutes will be published shortly thereafter.

Seed Club

The Seed Club, which was run successfully for many years by Mike Cranidge, will now be run by Ian Stone and Mike Green, as Mike Cranidge is self-isolating. A limited number of seed catalogues are usually offered at the AGM. As this is not possible, seed catalogues will be available on a first come first served basis at the allotment site on the 27 September and 4 October between 10am and 11.30am, together with instructions of how to make your orders.



*Best wishes to everyone,
from your Allotments Committee*