



## Jubilee Allotments Newsletter

### Allotments Committee

<i>Councillors</i>	Richard Bowden Moyra Lazenby	<i>Plot Holders</i>	Carol Giddings Debby Hazelgrove
<i>Secretary</i>	Chettina Masters		

### Statistics

Total number of half plots	52
Waiting list	12

### Lease agreements

We will be issuing new tenancy agreements with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. These have been tidied up and include a removal of the reference to a specific plot rental as it could be said that these are fixed since they are in writing. Since there would be three slightly different agreements in effect, it has been decided that all existing agreements will be formally cancelled on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and the new one issued on 1<sup>st</sup> April, at the start of the new financial year.

### Plot rents

Plot rentals have now been fixed for the last few years despite increases in inflation. The Council has resolved that the incoming rents must cover the annual costs of the allotments. At present the Council is paying for land rent, water rates, hedging costs, grass cutting and general maintenance out of the precept. We very much wish to continue to provide allotments for Downley residents.

To rectify this situation, we have therefore decided to increase the rent to £25.00 per each half plot for 2018-2019. This will become due on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. We will carry out another financial review next year to ensure that the books balance in future.

## **Allotment Association**

We feel that the time is now ripe for the plot holders at Jubilee Allotments to form a formal association. The association would take control of the budget, provide help for new tenants, and older ones, generally run the allotments for their own benefit, and produce their own newsletters, rather than the Council who are obviously one step removed from the day-to-day activities.

We will be inviting all plot holders to a meeting to discuss this, look for volunteers to be elected to the committee and then vote for members and chairman. We will be in touch soon.

## **Downley Gardening Society**

For further information, please contact [downleygardeningociety@hotmail.com](mailto:downleygardeningociety@hotmail.com) . Membership is £5 per year for a single membership and £8 per year for a family.

## **Jobs to be done this quarter**

### ***April Jobs***

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...

- Keep weeds under control
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses

### ***May Jobs***

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on regional weather variations, and you can take softwood cuttings.

- Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
- Regularly hoe off weeds

## June Jobs

June 21 is the longest day of the year, and the extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. But this extra light and warmth also means weeds will sprout up from seemingly nowhere. Keep on top of them by hoeing regularly in dry conditions.

- Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds
- Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas
- Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes
- Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes
- Plant out summer bedding
- Stake tall or floppy plants
- Prune many spring-flowering shrubs

## Readers' Letters

This newsletter is intended as a form of communication for plot holders and Council, so if you have any comments send them to Chettina in the usual way and she will pass them on. We would like to publish your comments.

## Useful websites

RHS advice	<a href="http://www.rhs.org.uk">www.rhs.org.uk</a>
Gardeners World	<a href="http://www.gardenersworld.com/">www.gardenersworld.com/</a>
National Allotments Society	<a href="https://www.nsalg.org.uk/">https://www.nsalg.org.uk/</a>

## Newsletter email

This newsletter is displayed on the allotments noticeboard, and another has been emailed to you. If you did not receive the email version, then please contact Chettina on [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk) to ensure that we have your correct email address.

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