



Jubilee Allotments Newsletter

Allotments Committee

Councillors Richard Bowden
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Statistics (as of 12th January 2018)

Total number of half plots	52
Waiting list	12

Flowers

Plot holders can grow a variety of fruit, vegetables on their plots, but few at the Jubilee Allotments grow flowers. Most plot holders have some space available to grow a few flowers.

There are many advantages of growing flowers. They can brighten up the whole allotment; you do not have to worry about colour clashes, or matching heights. You just plant the ones you like since they are intended to be cut and taken home for your flower vases. Do remember that if you do grow flowers, grow some greenery as well, as it will be required for your displays.

Another important reason for growing flowers is that they are very good for pollinators. Remember - no pollinators - no crops.

Showing your crops

Are you proud of your achievements? Then why not show them at the Downley Gardening Society's annual show in September. There are many classes, and the only restriction is that you must be a member of the Club. For further information, please contact 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

Here are some jobs you can be getting on with over the winter months.

January

January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen, the allotment begins to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming year and to order seeds and plants.

Clean pots ready for spring

Start forcing rhubarb

Plan your vegetable crop rotations

Harvest brussels sprouts, cabbages, leeks and parsnips

Take advantage of days when the soil is frozen hard to barrow and stack manure and compost close to where it will be dug in later on. Don't walk on the soil as it begins to thaw it will be wet and sticky.

Seed potatoes will available from the end of the month.

February

We get a glimpse of the early signs of the arrival of Spring this month. The soil begins to warm up around the middle of February and we can see for the first time this year, the buds beginning to swell on fruit trees and bushes.

Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some vegetables under cover

February is the best month to plant out garlic and shallots.

Cover the soil with cloches or sheets of plastic to warm it up in readiness for the next batch of sowing and planting.

Check over the chitting potatoes and begin to rub off any eyes that are unwanted leaving one or two well-spaced shoots.

March

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks.

Protect new shoots from slugs

Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes

Hoe weeds to keep them under control early

Sow the seed of Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, broccoli, onions and leeks in short rows on a "nursery seed bed". These will be grown on to be transplanted in April.

When the weather conditions allow it, complete the preparations of seed beds for direct seed sowing. Spread the job out over several days to allow the surface of the soil to dry out.

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	www.rhs.org.uk
Gardeners World	www.gardenersworld.com/
National Allotments Society	https://www.nsalg.org.uk/

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 to ensure that we have your correct email address.