



West Wickham Allotments Ltd

www.wwallotments.org.uk

Newsletter – September 2024



Notes from the Trading Shed

It's hard to believe that we're already in September and I'm about to place an order for potatoes to sell in the shop. The year seems to have whizzed by. This year we'll be having 10 different varieties of potato and we urge you to pre-order if at all possible. It helps us to work out how many kilos we need to order, and makes sure that you get the selection that you want.

We'll be getting Maris Bard and Pentland Javelin as first earlies, Estima and Kestrel as second earlies, Nichola and Charlotte are the salad potatoes and Cara, Picasso and Desiree the main crop. We'll be taking orders in the shop from October and I hope that the price will be the same as last year - a bargain at £1.50 per kilo.



We're also getting some autumn planting onions and shallots, again at a good price, and I expect those to be delivered to me sometime in mid-September.

We'll be receiving our seed catalogues in September as well and Yung-Min will let us know when they arrive so that you can collect them. They'll be real catalogues this year and I'm assured that the discount will be good and the service from Fothergills better than last year.

Come and visit us in the shop if you need anything for your plot or your garden and our very helpful ladies will be able to assist.

Liz and Viv

Lettings

On the Lettings front it has been a busy few months. We have quite a few new plot holders who are now setting about clearing old plots. Unfortunately, you will have noticed a few untended plots. The Committee procedure is that we inspect plots in early summer and any not being cultivated we ask the plot holders the reason why. There are many reasons people get behind, illness or a change in circumstances and we always allow some flexibility. If it looks as though people have just given up we do give three months to get the plot in order but failing this the Tenancy is cancelled. Of course, we would much rather people get back into looking after their plots.

As we approach prime harvesting season remember, if a crop is finished and taken out either replant with another crop or cover the ground. This can be with ground cover or maybe consider planting green manure. These are a range of plants that will survive over winter and can be dug in next spring to improve the soil.

On a sad note you will have seen the notice about Ron Bates' passing. Many of you will have known him personally. He contributed a lot to the allotment being a mainstay of the maintenance team. You'll have seen him around on the sit-on mower, chatting with people and sharing advice and it's thanks to him and others we have the composting toilets and the pond. He will be missed by many of us.

Peter

Gardeners' Question Time

As we have a lot of new plot holders, some who are new to growing, I wondered if there would be any interest in an Allotment Gardeners' Question Time.

I would like to know:

1. Is there any interest in this?
2. What time of year would you prefer it to be?
3. Would you be interested in being on the panel?
4. Let me know via email lyneustace@aol.com

Thank you for your continued support for Social Sundays, all profit helps to keep the cost of your plot rentals down.

Lyn
Social Secretary

Our website

We are currently working on a new website with the aim of creating a user-friendly platform where we can inform current allotment holders and promote what we do, as well as engage with the local community and those interested in securing a plot.

As part of the new format we'd like to include photographs of people, plots and produce. If you would like to contribute to the gallery, please send a high resolution version of your images (i.e. the original photograph from your device, not one that has been saved to social media or sent via WhatsApp, which diminishes the quality) to louisebadelow@icloud.com

Let me know if you need anything else.

Best wishes

Louise



From the Secretary's desk

This summer the Allotments have been visited by 2 separate schools and a nursery so in total we have shown 110 children round the site. They all had a great time and we were sent this lovely Thank You card below.

Viv

