



# WELLINGTON FIELDS ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

## Wellington fields Allotments Newsletter - Summer Edition.

The first publication of 2017. Don't forget, if you wish to contribute to future issues, please contact a member of the committee.

### Committee Notices

July 2017

### Village Fete

As some of you will know the Committee successfully ran a plant stall for the benefit of the Millennium Green Fund. The stall raised quite a bit of money and acted to promote the Allotments as a result of which there were several inquiries about plots.

### Compost Heaps

Our friendly farmer John Martin has emptied one compost heap and has turned the full one into the empty one that has now been covered with a plastic sheet to mature. Just a little reminder. Please do not put WOOD or PLASTIC RUBBISH into the compost bins, only vegetation.

### Memorial Garden.

The Hixon Rail Crash Memorial Garden is progressing nicely with the garden weeded, laid out and mostly planted up. It is just awaiting the memorial stone. The Village Hall has been booked for the weekend of 6th - 8th January for an exhibition and talk by Malcolm and the Memorial Garden will be formally opened during that weekend.

### Vacant Plots.

The Committee have decided to try and keep vacant plots covered as best as they can to keep the weed problem down and stop the empty plots from becoming unlettable.

### FaceBook Page.

Don't forget we have our own FaceBook page that we would like to see more people using! You can post anything you want within reason about the Allotments.

[www.facebook.com/WellingtonFieldsHixon](http://www.facebook.com/WellingtonFieldsHixon)

## Allotment Blog.

One of our Plot-Holders writes a Blog for the Stafford And Stone Talking Newspaper once a month. It is not a Gardening Tips, but does have some interesting information in it. This is his last piece.

Hixon Allotments Diary Article Number 122.

Some Successes And Failures.

My experimentation with trying to grow some white Asparagus was a great success! All I did to achieve this was to select a vigorous plant and cover it with an upturned bucket before putting a house brick on top to hold it down against the wind. As the new shoots grew they came up pure white. They were very attractive, but I have to confess that with my sense of taste they seemed to taste no different. One other point is that once cut, the Spears go green very quickly if kept in the light! You really need to cover them after cutting until you get them home and they are cooked.

For those that are in the habit of letting their Asparagus Spears get too long before cutting, I saw an excellent tip on a cookery program where one of the Chefs was peeling some overly long and thick, stalks before cooking. He pointed out that when the Spears get too tough, it is only because the outer skin has thickened and if this is peeled off, the inner core is soft enough to cook as normal. I tried it and it really does work, although to make it worth the effort you need to start with thick stalks. Now we have come to the end of June, the Asparagus season is all over, so my two new ideas will have to keep until next year. The over all harvest of Asparagus was not too bad and neither was the Rhubarb harvest in the end, although there seemed to be spells where it didnt appear to be growing and was just sitting there.

I have started pulling leaves off my Celtuce that seem to be a bit thicker than normal Lettuce leaves, but they are ok to eat just the same. Having grown it for a couple of years now, I have previously only bothered harvesting the stalks as an alternative vegetable at the end of the season, but this year I thought I would try and make a bit more use of what I grow and waste less vegetables.

The first of my Turnips are ready and still swelling nicely, although we could do with a bit more rain on them than we have had to stop them going woody and going to seed. Speaking of things going to seed because of being too dry, one bed of Onions is going to seed whereas the other bed seems ok at the moment. I have tried the old trick of cutting the developing seed heads off and hoping for the best. I had to remove last years Chard as that had gone to seed as well, but that was expected, because it had simply come to the end of its growing time. However, I have started pulling a few leaves on this seasons follow up young plants that are growing quickly, and here again, one or two, are going to seed already. Up until the end of June it was just too dry for everything. Again, I will cut the tops off and hope for the best.

I have harvested my Garlic as the tops had died down, but the bulbs were very poor, so I gave them away to a real Garlic fan who hadnt grown any. My Radishes werent any better as they had gone woody and were too hard to eat. The plants did want some more water, but that wasnt the real problem as I had got mixed up over the variety and thought they were the giant Mooli type. I had been waiting for them to get big and long which of course they didnt! They just went to seed.

I had more success with my over Wintered Broad Beans even though I tried picking them too early to start with. The plants looked nice with big pods, but the beans were tiny inside them. (I was reminded of the fiasco with my Hazelnuts a couple of years back!) I left them another couple of weeks until the end of June and by then they had become sizeable beans. Even then there were not many beans inside the pods, but I did get a couple of bag-fulls into the freezer. Of course my over Wintered (Aquadulce type) plants had produced their Beans earlier than everybody elses as theirs are only just coming ready now. However, as mine flowered so much earlier in the season it may be that the Bees werent about then to pollinate them, hence the part empty pods.

The next vegetable to harvest, will, I think, be the Potatoes. When the late frosts took the tops at the end of Spring I panicked a little and thought they might be a complete failure, but they re-shot OK and are starting to

flower, which is a good sign. As usual I am already growing a few trays of seedlings to plant in the space when the Potatoes do come out. Beetroot and Khol Rabi are two of my favourites vegetables that are quick to harvest from seed, but I will be sowing some Radish Mooli as well!

If you would like to contribute to future publications, or have any comments regarding the format, please contact one of the Committee Members listed below. **HAPPY GROWING!**

### **Current Committee Members**

**Chairperson - Simon Ellin.**  
**Treasurer - Karen Appleton.**  
**Secretary - Jane Garner.**

#### **Committee Members: -**

**Joe Craen;**  
**Barry Williams;**  
**Mark Connell;**  
**Chris Hilton;**  
**Alan Hartley;**  
**Rose Jones.**

### **Dont Forget**

This years Annual General Meeting was held on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> July in the village hall. The reports will be posted on our website in a few days.

We still have vacant plots, so if you fancy taking on another Plot to grow a few more vegetables please see Jane Garner.



Please Visit Our Website @ [www.wellingtonfieldsallotments.org/](http://www.wellingtonfieldsallotments.org/) and Our FaceBook Page.