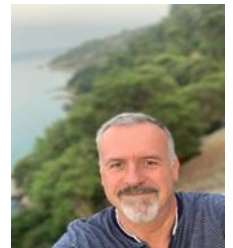




WELLINGTON FIELDS ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER May/June 2023



Forward from the Chairman

Welcome once again to the early season newsletter and although it may be hard to envisage, given the cold and wet spring, we wish you a very successful growing season. In the past few years, we have embarked on several site improvements- not least the compost/manure/wood chip storage area, and I've noticed this year that our compost has been very well used. We lose so much soil from the site through weeding and soil erosion, so it is incredibly important that we replace this through using the compost. Just help yourselves.

Another site improvement you will see over the next few months at the area to the left of the gate is the construction of a compost toilet, storage shed and wildlife area. All these improvements are delivered through our fund raising activities such as our plant sale, the next one which will take place at the village hall on Sunday 14th May from 10 - 1. It is important you support this, so please tell your family and friends and come down to support us. Thank you in anticipation, it's going to be a very busy early season period!

Simon Elin

Notices / Key Dates from the Secretary

Dear All,

Alan Hartley has turned the water back on after the winter - if you need to top up the troughs, would you please turn the taps off afterwards to avoid any unnecessary waste.

A reminder that the plant sale will be held on **Sunday 14th May**, outside the Memorial Hall, from **10am until 1pm**. Alan has already grown a wonderful variety of plants and some vegetables and if you have any plants, seedlings or cuttings going spare, please bring them along. Everyone is welcome so feel free to invite family, friends and neighbours. All money raised will be put towards the project to install a composting toilet and storage shed at the allotment site.

We are also planning another quiz, to raise yet more funds for the loo and shed. This will be on **June 4th** at 7.30pm in the Bank House, so again, please invite friends and family and we hope to see you there.

Many thanks

Jane



Health and Safety tips taken from our policy

- It is recommended that, particularly at quiet times, plot-holders inform someone where they are, and their likely return time.
- Plot-holders should ensure that their plot and associated accesses are free from hazard: hazards may include sharp edges, exposed nails, improperly stored tools, and hazards hidden within undergrowth such as forgotten discarded tools.
- Please remember that we are legally responsible for the safety of anybody who may enter our plots.
- Thank you for all who are reverse parking, this makes a massive difference to the safety of people on the car park and when leaving the facility.



May/June Jobs for the allotment

By late May the frosts should be behind us! Continue to propagate new plants and then get them in the plot. This month plant-out your broad beans, carrots and cabbage, if they were grown from seeds. Ensure that your peas are in and when you believe the frosts have ended plant your climbing beans, Runner and all other varieties of beans. Plant out your corn, courgettes, squashes, and pumpkins.

June

Time to harvest

Beetroot, broad beans, cabbage, cauliflower, early peas, lettuce, rhubarb, spring onions, radish, spinach can all start to be harvested now. Lift the earliest potatoes towards the end of the month and continue earthing up the rows of your other varieties. June is the end of the asparagus season, so stop cutting and give the plants a top dressing of general fertiliser to help build up the crowns for next year. Start to harvest the first of your soft fruits.

Other Jobs

1. Harden Plants

It only takes a few minutes to put small pots outdoors for the day and then take them undercover during the evenings. Do this for a few days and then plants will suffer less shock when left out at night-time, and then when planted out on the plot or in the garden.

2. Weeding

Do 10 minutes of weeding every day to avoid that depressing sight of the weeds taking over. Weed with a hoe in dry weather or by hand whenever you want to. Little and often is a better technique than facing an overgrown plot or garden.

Progress on our improvement project

We have started the bases for the shed and composting toilet through creating some wooden frames. Pete Appleton has spent a huge amount of time preparing the plans and ordering the materials, he has done a fantastic job. Thanks also to Alan who has done a considerable amount of digging to ensure the bases are deep enough to take the concrete and hard core.

We will be installing the toilet first followed by a shed and a small seating are. In addition to this we will be building in various wild life features.

Thank you to John Martin also who has supplied the wood and hard-core. When we next start work I will contact plot holders for help with the project.



Preparing and Planting Ideas

Making a Bean or Pea Trench

- What you need is lots of shredded paper soaked in a home-made nettle and comfrey feed fertilizer. You can also use lots of newspapers, kitchen waste is also good for your trench, you can use a fertilizer of your own choice if you wish to, tomato feed is a good substitute.

- Dig out your trench about 10 inches deep and line the bottom of the trench with your pre-soaked shredded paper or newspapers and your kitchen waste.
- Back fill the soil into the trench and level it off. Put some boarding around your trench to keep the soil together and to keep it neat and tidy. Leave the trench for a good month so everything rots down, then plant or sow your beans or peas. When the roots hit the pre-soaked paper and the kitchen waste they will feed off this for the whole season and you will have a good crop of beans and peas.



Remember - don't put potato peelings or onion skins into your trench.

Recipes from Karen Appleton

Rhubarb Cake- Serves: 10

Ingredients

- 125g butter
- 300g caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 250g plain flour (I add more as batter is a little too thin)
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda & baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 250ml buttermilk
- 250g rhubarb, chopped
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- **Topping**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 25g brown sugar



Method

Prep:15min > Cook:45min > Ready in:1hr

1. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar. Beat in egg and vanilla.
2. In another bowl, sift together 250g flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Add sifted ingredients alternately with buttermilk to creamed mixture.

3. Toss rhubarb with 1 tablespoon flour and stir into cake mixture. Spoon cake mixture into buttered 23x33cm baking tin and smooth the surface.
4. Blend together 50g butter, cinnamon and brown sugar; sprinkle evenly over cake mixture.
5. Bake at 180 C / Gas 4 for 45 minutes.

Rhubarb Jam Recipe (makes about 8, 8 oz jars)



- 4 lbs rhubarb, chopped
- 4 lbs sugar
- 3 tb spn lemon juice
- 1 packet natural pectin

Sterilise the jam jars by washing in the dishwasher, or washing by hand & then putting in the oven for 10 minutes on 100 degrees.

Put a saucer in the freezer.

Heat rhubarb and lemon juice over medium heat.

Increase the heat and boil for 10 minutes. Add pectin and boil for another 10 minutes.

Now add the sugar and boil for another 15 to 20 minutes, or until a little jam congeals when dripped onto the saucer from the freezer.

Pour the hot jam into the jars and close immediately.

Committee Members

Chairperson - Simon Ellin.
Vice Chair- Chris Hilton
Treasurer - Karen Appleton.
Secretary - Jane Garner.

Committee Members: -
Mark Connell;
Alan Hartley;
Nick Brookes;
Suzanne O'Farrell.

Contact Details for Jane Garner,
Secretary - fjanegarner@hotmail.com

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

www.facebook.com/WellingtonFieldSHixon

Memorial Garden

The garden is looking really good after the hard work of all the volunteers who have regularly worked on it. A boundary fence has now been added by Mark Farrington and I am sure you would all agree it looks fantastic. Thank you to all that have been involved.



Please Visit Our Website @ www.wellingtonfieldsallotments.org/ and our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/WellingtonFieldsHixon

Useful Links

<https://www.allaboutallotments.co.uk/general-interest>

<https://www.allotment-garden.org/>

<https://www.nsalq.org.uk/news/covid19-information/>

.....*Happy Gardening*