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## PARADISE ALLOTMENTS SPRING NEWSLETTER

No.4 April 2021

At last spring is here. Hopefully the road map to all covid restrictions will be lifted by end of June. We have enjoyed all the wildlife on the allotment over the winter and early spring and have watched with wonder the buzzards soaring regularly in the sky above. We look forward to a plentiful harvest and less variable weather! Our last recommended frost date is May 16<sup>th</sup>, but we have had a few frosts up to June. Please keep checking the local weather forecast.

### Dates for your dairy

#### Hardy Plants, seedling, and seed exchange

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 10 till 1 pm**

Please bring you spare plants and seedlings to central area. At least a hundred and fifty plants were exchanged last year!

Some examples to swap; Brassicas (cabbage, sprouts), broad beans, lettuce, onions, greenhouse tomatoes

#### Tender Plants and Hardy plants exchange

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 10 till 1 pm**

Some examples to swap; frost tender plants, marrow, courgette, tomato, basil, peppers, squash, melon, spring onion, sweetcorn, beans

#### Summer family fun day

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

For plot holders families- children and grandchildren. Details to be announced but will include a few children's show classes and a picnic or bar-b-cue or both!

#### Summer Show and Party

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 11 till 4 pm**

Details, categories, and entry forms will be emailed and posted onto the notice boards by mid-April

#### A few ideas for newcomers and reminders for old hands

No Commercial waste or fly tipping is allowed onto the allotments.

You can bring your own green waste from your own garden to use and or compost on your plot.

Please continue to keep locking the gate when you enter and leave the allotment. We do not want a return to non-allotment holders entering the allotments, helps us stay safe from intruders and has helped to prevent fly tipping.

Bonfires can only happen on a small scale on your own plot or as a small group together. The best time for bonfires will be between November and February. All composting must be on your plot or removed from the allotment. There is now nowhere on the site for depositing rubbish. Each plot-holder should dispose of their own by, e.g. composting green waste and removing problem items (old containers, plastic, carpets, rubble, old doors etc.) to your grey bin at home or taken to the recycling centre.

Only tenant holders and their named helpers are allowed onto the allotments.

#### Would you be interested in learning more about growing fruit, veg and flowers on your plot?

A few ideas...

We could arrange one to one learning or small workshops/seminars.

Seed planting/sowing, pricking out, crop rotation, watering, composting, dragging, what grows best on our allotment and what doesn't! raised beds, pruning, companion planting, weeds and weeding, no dig, bug and pest management, green house growing, beneficial wildlife, soil management, looking after your plot, what do with you produce (apart from eat it straight away!), freeze it, bottle it, pickle it and chump it, recipe sharing

We could even consider a "gardeners question time". Ask our panel of experts. There are many very experienced plot holders who would love to share their vast knowledge with you. Maybe we could do one of these on the show day?

## Wildlife and allotments

Although the primary purpose of allotment sites is to grow food, they offer many other benefits and their contribution to supporting wildlife in urban areas is significant. They form some of the best habitat mosaics and wildlife corridors, often linking up with parks, tracks, hedgerows, church yards and rivers.

Plot-holders can help to support wildlife and ensure a balanced eco-system that will reduce pests and diseases and increase productivity by following some simple steps.

### Tips for a wildlife friendly plot

- Reduce or eliminate use of chemicals, use companion planting and physical removal to combat pests such as aphids, slugs, and sawfly
- Create habitats for wildlife; bee-boxes, hedgehog homes, log and stone piles for invertebrates, toads and slow worms who will also inhabit a compost heap
- Plant late, mid-season and early blooming nectar rich flowers to attract pollinators and beneficial insects all year round
- Make a small pond, keep it ice free in winter by floating a ball on the top and ensure that it is safe for other plot-holders' children
- Feed birds through the winter and supply nesting boxes

Allotment sites can make communal efforts to be wildlife friendly by managing hedges appropriately and setting aside un-mown grassy areas to nurture insects and amphibians; a patch of nettles will provide both plant food and a breeding area for butterflies. Orchard areas managed in a traditional way provide potential breeding sites for many different species of wildlife.

## New tenants

We would like to welcome the many new plot-holders and their families who have joined us recently. We are now full!

Plot 19c Helen Woodhouse  
Plot 25c Meg Pryor  
Plot 26a Holly Foley  
Plot 26c Glyn Watson  
Plot 29c Dawn Martin  
Plot 30b Barbara Gaffney  
Plot 40 Charlotte Assinder  
Plot 41 Dani Barrett  
Plot 42 Marilyn Rivers  
Lydia Bishop has moved from 25C to Plot 12C

**If you have any issues on the allotment, please try talking to the group first rather than the Parish Council. We might be able to solve it!**

### Spare fruit and veg?

A very big thankyou to everyone who gifted excess produce last year, but we could do more! More than ever in these hard times your fresh fruit and veg is desperately needed. Nothing goes to waste.

Please help this year your donations will be going to two local charities this year.

Please bring your excess fruit and veg to the central area storage containers. Carol will do twice a week collections and times to be confirmed soon.

## Working parties

We sadly had to postpone all winter working parties due to covid restrictions. Se we now have a backlog of jobs to complete. If you would like to volunteer even if just for an hour it will be very helpful. This is our allotment and the more we work together to maintain it. We can all then take pride in looking after it. We owe a huge dept of gratitude to the people that came before us in working tirelessly to build up the allotments to what we have today.

Scheduled tasks include clearing plots of disused raised beds, tidy up, building community raised beds, complete polytunnel/s, restore central well, main path weeding, central wildlife and community area path repairs and bindweed attack! guttering on community sheds. More projects will be added as needed.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, and cakes for the workers.

All 10 till 2.00

**Wednesday's**

**14<sup>th</sup> April**

**12<sup>th</sup> May**

**9<sup>th</sup> June**

**14<sup>th</sup> July**

**11<sup>th</sup> August**

**Saturday's**

**1<sup>st</sup> May**

**26<sup>th</sup> June**

**31<sup>st</sup> July**

**28<sup>th</sup> August**

### Ideas for our next newsletter

If you would like to contribute or share tips, short stories about your allotment, photographs or good news please email or contact one of the group. Thanks in advance

## Paradise Allotment Working Group

Leave a message on 07891 093319 or place message in suggestion boxes on each entrance

Email: [paradisearchive@yahoo.com](mailto:paradisearchive@yahoo.com)