



## PARADISE ALLOTMENTS SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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No.2 July 2020

We will be holding our first Summer show on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August. Please see the attached list for the show time, categories and information. We had hoped to provide some food cooked with the produce off the allotment and even have a peoples' vote for the best food! (next year). We can all however bring our own picnic/drinks to the show day.

It is a busy time with lots to do including trying to keep the soil and plants suitably hydrated during the very hot days we have experienced. Many of us have dug up early potatoes and garlic as well as shallots and onions. Soft fruit is at its best now. We have noticed several plots with unpicked fruit and as a reminder NG11 will be very grateful for spare produce. Many crops are ready to harvest or will be in a few weeks including peas, broad beans, courgettes spinach, swiss chard, early potatoes, beetroot, runner beans and french beans.

Please keep to all the guidelines currently in place to make our visits to the allotments as safe as they can be for everyone. We urge you to remain careful about stringent hygiene before and after visiting your plot especially with the sanitising your hands after you open the lock and gates.

**Please be aware of blight as the current conditions of alternating between hot and damp will make this more likely. If it is caught early, we might be able to prevent as much spread as possible. Please be vigilant.**

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

Keeping the Wilford road gates locked has made a big difference to the amount of non-allotment holders coming onto the site and the dumping of waste has also stopped. A big thankyou to everyone for keeping the gates locked.

There is a coded key safe (with a key in it) on each gate and the emergency services have the code to get into the allotments if needed.

Everyone should have a personal plan in place particularly if you are coming to the allotment on your own. Please speak to the group and we can advise you and give you examples of other allotment holders' plans.

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

### Spare fruit and veg?

As a group of enthusiastic gardeners one of our aspirations is to be able to share any excess fruit and veg that we grow.

Our local foodbank 'NG11' have expressed their desire to receive and distribute any fresh produce we would be able to donate either occasionally or on a regular basis.

With this in mind, we have got together a dedicated group of volunteers who are happy to organise the receiving and delivery of fresh fruit and veg, and any other food items you could spare, ready for distribution on a Tuesday and Saturday.

If you have any produce that you would like to donate please leave them outside the garage, in the centre of the allotments, before 8pm on Monday and Friday evenings.

Many many thanks in advance.

### Symptoms of Potato Blight

Initially a spore or more likely several spores will land on the potato haulm. In dry weather they lie dormant but when the humidity is right, the fungus starts to grow. You may notice brown freckles on the leaves or sections of leaves with brown patches and a sort of yellowish border spreading from the brown patch.

In a severe attack you may discover that all the foliage is down and brown, starting to rot. It's frightening how quickly potato blight can spread in the right circumstances.

The blight spores will fall or be washed down by rain onto the soil and any exposed tubers. Once in a tuber it will spread from tuber to tuber and infect the entire crop.

### Did you know?

The hedge on the south side of the allotments might be 300 years old!

### Origin of rural hedgerows

Hedges can originate in a number of ways. They may be woodland (assart) hedges, formed out of woodland trees/shrubs left as remnants after woodland clearance. They may derive from scrub growing on boundaries between cultivated fields or they may be planted with individual or a mix of species. Some may be a combination of different origins.

### Dating hedgerows

In some areas, large numbers of hedges were planted as a result of the Enclosure Acts, the bulk of which were between 1760 and 1820 and in some instances the hedge itself may be protected by the specific Enclosure Act. Some hedges may be much older than this. A formula has been developed for dating hedges based on the number of tree and shrub species per unit length. This is known as the Hopper formula. The number of tree and shrub species in a 30-metre length of hedge can indicate its age, with one species for each 100 years. A single species hedge is likely to be less than 100 years old whilst a 1,000 year old hedge is likely to contain ten to twelve species.

### Working parties

We are working on an annual programme of maintenance tasks mainly during the winter months, to keep the allotments in good order, and projects will be added to list as they are needed. Some future tasks include clearing plots, central area work, removal of disused compost boxes, tree and branch removal and path repairs.

Community help mornings will start again soon with social distancing!!! If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact one of the group.

### Group compost and seed purchases

We are looking into getting deliveries of farmyard well rotten manure over the winter. Kings seeds group purchase will give us 50% off price. If you are interested, please contact the group

### 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

### Recycle adverts contact group for details

Plastic Compost bins various sizes  
Old Scaffolding Boards and scaffolding pipes  
Heras Fencing

If you have not yet filled in the form below, we can't then contact you about the show, events, shared watering, the newsletter can be emailed to you and important announcements like blight and frost watches. Your privacy is important to us and we would like to stay in touch with allotment holders in a way which has your consent, and which is in line with UK law on data protection. As a result of a change in UK law, we need your consent to how we contact you. Please fill in the contact details you would like us to use to communicate with you and give the completed form below to one of the group or put into the black suggestion boxes on either gate entrance:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, you are confirming that you are consenting to the Paradise Allotments Working Group holding and processing your personal data for the following purposes (please tick the boxes where you grant consent): -

I consent to the group contacting me by  phone or  email.

To keep me informed about news, events and activities at Paradise Allotments by the working group

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Where you do not grant consent, we will not be able to use your personal data (so for example we may not be able to let you know about forthcoming activities and events).

You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the Working Group. Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent.

**Paradise Allotment Working Group**  
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