

Ware Allotment and Leisure Gardens Society

Newsletter Spring 2020

The Committee

Chairman Nigel Beynon
Treasurer Margery Madden
Queenie Cheetham
Gary Sills
Celeste Reeve
Paul Rowley

David Nye
David Smith

Secretary Jenny St John-Clarke

Warehouse Site

Plot 26
Plot 82B
Plots 6 & 7
Plots 63B & 69B
Plot 64A
Plot 82A

Crosspath Site

Plot 03
Plot 14B
Plot 17B

Chairman's Report

A warm welcome to all new plot holders! We hope that you will be able to get some useful advice from your neighbours and enjoy cultivating your own produce this year.

The New Year: Getting started!

January and February are usually the coldest months and coming on top of the floods and heavy rains just before Christmas it is well worth taking the time to look over the allotment and prioritise the jobs for the month. Top of the list has to be cleaning up the plot and disposing of all of the damaged and rotten crops. Don't worry too much about soil preparations for now, just concentrate on clearing the way for a Spring blitz; weather permitting of course. Most of the overwintering vegetables will have suffered under the wet conditions. Make a list, visit the garden centre and get in what replacement seeds or bulbs you will need for your immediate needs. It is too late for this year but please do take advantage of ordering your seeds with us in future years. The Kings Seed prices are good value for money.

AGM

Our annual AGM will take place at 7.30pm on the 2nd April 2020 at Ware Priory. Refreshments will be available after the event and committee members will be there to welcome new members and have a chat about the coming season.

Trading Shed

The trading shed shop at the top of the Warehouse Field site will be open on Sundays (except Easter Sunday) 10.30am to 11.45 from 15th March. Why go elsewhere when you can obtain a variety of goods at competitive prices (see attached price list). All fertilizers can be purchased in small quantities. We also hold copies of the "Allotment and Leisure Gardener" magazine produced by the National Allotment Society of which all plot holders are members.

Our committee run the trading shed shop site come rain or shine from 15th March and throughout the season but now and again we have a date that we cannot cover. There is nothing complicated to master and the process is very straightforward. If anyone would be interested in helping please let one of the committee members know.

Meet the Neighbour Day

Building on last year's successful event we are planning another Meet the Neighbour BBQ day. This is a chance to meet fellow allotment holders with cooked BBQ food provided. The date is yet to be confirmed but will be advertised on the notice boards. Please bring along some drinks and other food to the Warehouse Field site and join in the fun!

Facebook Page

For those not already aware, we have a fantastic page on Facebook where, once you have joined, you will be able to post photographs, tips, recipes or anything else relevant that you would like to share. Please search Facebook for Ware Allotment Growers and you will find the page.

Skips

Skips will be provided on both sites over Easter for non-compostable materials only. Please do not use the skips for disposal of soil, weeds and other green matter. The exact dates will be posted on the notice boards. Bonfires that do not cause a nuisance are permitted on both sites.

Best Kept Allotment

Plots on both sites will again be inspected in June by a selection of eminent members of the community! Plots that have been held for less than one year are separately judged so everyone has a chance of winning. We look forward to seeing the fruits of your labour be it vegetables, flowers or a combination of both.

Plot Maintenance

It is the responsibility of plot holders to maintain the paths around their plots and to cut back any shrubs, brambles nettles etc. that restrict the paths' width. New fencing should be erected not closer than 6" (150mm) from the edge of the path.

We do occasionally have theft on site so it is not advisable to keep good tools on site. There is no insurance cover for loss by theft.

Site Maintenance

Please ensure that you lock the gate immediately on entry and after leaving. We have had locks stolen when the combination numbers have been left on the opening numbers.

In the two central grassed areas of the Warehouse Field site post and chain fencing has been erected to separate grass from hard areas suitable for parking. To ensure that the fencing remains in good order please ensure that children do not damage the fencing by swinging on the chains.

There have been occasions where various materials have been dumped on open areas of the sites and not removed. Plot holders are reminded that their plots are the only areas where materials can be deposited for further use.