

Newsletter

Ash Road Allotment Association

The Newsletter

Anything for the newsletter? Please let me know. Chris Martin (Plot 59).
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Coffee and Advice

**Remember you are invited for
FREE coffee on Sunday mornings.
Come along to the Hut at 11 am.**

Remember that we also have an
allotment 'shop' at The Hut. This is
open every Sunday from 10.30am.

Copies of the latest price list are
available in the Hut and a display copy
is pinned to the site notice board on
the outside wall.



Please note new arrangements for the
main access gate on a Sunday...

Previously the gate has been left open
most of Sunday, whenever a
Committee Member is on site.

In an effort to increase site security **the
gate will now ONLY be left open
between 10am and 12 Noon on
Sunday and should be closed at ALL
other times.** Please make sure that you
fully scramble the combination
padlock.



Plant Sale Sunday 20th May

**Remember that the Allotment Spring Plant Sale is taking
place this Sunday (20th), starting at 11 am.**

Proceeds from the sale will go to Allotment funds.

We do hope you have been growing seedlings and plants,
or have surplus ones that you can donate to the sale? Please
can you bring these along on the morning. And if you're still
looking for something to plant on your plot, the sale is a
great opportunity to buy some low cost seedlings and plants
for planting out for the summer season.

We also plan to have a sale of second hand books, so if you
have any good quality books at home that you'd like to
donate to the sale, please also bring these along.

Finally, it would be great if those of you who like baking
would be prepared to bake a cake and bring it along on the
morning. It all helps raise funds for projects around the
allotment site and will help make the event an enjoyable
one.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday 20th and let's hope
we have some fine weather.



Find us on:
facebook®

Still haven't joined us on Facebook? Follow the link - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1115906655100815>.

Great British Bees



The Great British Bee Count takes place from 17 May to 30 June. Discover the incredible diversity of bees we have in the UK, the threats they face and what you can do to help them. More information and registration at www.greatbritishbeecount.co.uk

Remember there's a lot you can do on your plot to encourage pollinators:

- Consider planting wildflowers in a fallow area. These draw in bees while they flower and you can then dig the plants in before they seed to improve your soil.
- Herbs, such as lavender, thyme, oregano/marjoram etc. are great for bees and you can use the herbs too.
- Bee friendly fruit and veg include apples, pears, raspberries, courgettes, runner beans and squash.
- Minimise your use of pesticides

Allotment Events 2018 - Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 20th May - Plant Sale
Sunday 10th June - Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
Sunday 5th August - Allotment Barbecue
Sunday 2nd September - Allotment Annual Show
 [All dates subject to confirmation]

May Tasks on the Allotment

May is the month to begin planting and sowing outdoors in earnest, but remember that frost can't be completely ruled out until the end of the month.

Top Tasks

- Protect tender plants against sneaky late frosts and be ready for last minute covering with cloches and fleece.
- Earth up rows of potato plants to maximise your crop and ensure the tubers are underground and not exposed to light.
- Weed regularly - hoeing when weeds are small makes the job easier than waiting until they have long roots. Then weed some more..... and more!!
- Keep young plants well watered and 'thin out' seedlings.
- Put up supports (sticks or canes) for climbing beans and peas.
- Greenhouses and polytunnels will need to be well ventilated - best to leave doors and windows open in sunny weather.

Sow or Plant in May

- Leeks - May is normally the first month to start transplanting out leek plants. Brassicas can also now be planted out if they are large enough.
- Sow many types of seeds outdoors this month now the soil is warming, but keep them watered in dry weather.
- Hopefully frosts have passed so the tender crops that you've started in pots, like outdoor cucumbers, courgettes, marrows, tomatoes and sweet corn can be planted out towards the end of the month - but protect from any cold winds with fleece. Plant sweet corn in blocks so they cross-pollinate.

Pests

- Net or cage fruit bushes to protect them from birds; and similarly protect new beans and peas from the pigeons.
- Slugs and snails are now active and eating seedlings overnight.
- Put in place the cages or nets for your brassicas so that they don't become food for butterfly caterpillars.
- Protect carrots from carrot root fly.



Dandelions

Dandelions may look pretty, but please act NOW to stop them going to seed and causing problems for your neighbours. Taking the flower heads off helps stop this weed spreading.



Car Parking

You've probably noticed that the car parks are getting crowded. Please park as close to the next vehicle as is safe, so as to allow as many cars as possible to be parked on site.

However, please park considerably and don't block people in.

Remember that you can also park outside the lower, pedestrian, entrance to the allotments along Rokeby Gardens (where there are no parking restrictions) and at weekends there are also no restrictions on parking on the streets close to the allotment main entrance (St. Anne's Road and Batcliffe Mount).

Plot Inspections



The Committee plans to continue plot inspections regularly during the summer. Initial plot inspections took place earlier in the Spring and it is great to be able to report that there is a real 'buzz' of activity across the site, with a number of previously neglected plots being brought back into use. Congratulations to many of you for all the hard work you have put in and let's hope this results in a good harvest this year!

Just to say that the Committee is not expecting perfection, but just that a reasonable effort is being made by plot-holders to cultivate and make use of their plots. Demand for allotment plots is now high again in Leeds and we do have a waiting list, with people very keen to have the opportunity to grow their own food, so it is only fair that we make sure that plots are being used.

Notices

- **ALL requests for new plots or for permission to build a shed MUST be made in writing**, either by email to ash_road_allotments@aol.co.uk or by letter posted in the mail box on the back wall of the Hut. This is so that we make sure all requests are dealt with properly and fairly.
- Grass is growing fast. Remember that you are responsible for **cutting the grass and maintaining the paths** to the right of your plot (when facing north) and also the path on the north side of your plot (if you have one).
- Remember that from 1st May **Bonfires** are allowed only **AFTER 5pm**. Please always be considerate of your neighbours and extinguish fires before you leave.
- We do like to welcome **children** on the site, but **please supervise them and make sure you know where they are at all times**. Young children do not always appreciate all the potential dangers that are around the site, nor are they always aware that they should not run onto other people's plots.