

April Newsletter 2017

This is one of the busiest times to be an allotment gardener. Many jobs can be started to make sure you get the best crops possible later in the year.

Many seeds can be planted indoors on windowsills if you do not have a green house and most will benefit from an early start in pots that then allow young plants to be transplanted later on when they are really established and growing well and soil conditions have improved and all risk of frost has passed.

It is an ideal time to plant courgettes, pumpkins and squash. There is still time to sow tomatoes and even chillies and cucumbers. Runner beans can be sown this month.

Peas can be sown direct as well as brassicas.

Potato sets can be planted and many people now do not even dig a trench. A tip is to plant a potato with a little fertiliser and a few slug pellets. Make sure they are deep enough and well spaced.

Why not look through the show schedule which is also sent out with this letter to see if there are any classes for which you plan to make entries.

Some sites will now have water supplies already. The official date for the water to be turned on is April 1st.

We can now monitor water from site to site and accurately record usage for site comparison. Please do everything you can to reduce your water use and respect the policy that states no hose pipes are to be used.

Visits :

We are hoping to arrange a visit to look round the gardens at Sissinghurst again as well as revisit Godinton House . Keep checking for further details.

Other dates for the diary:

Next committee meeting : 10 th May at 6.30 pm at the Civic Centre. If you have any questions or comments please see your site rep who will pass these on to the committee.

Summer Show : Date and Venue to be confirmed. This is an ideal time to be planning to sow seeds ready to harvest a great range of produce to enter in a full range of categories this year. See the schedule already mentioned.

Plot Judging : Date to be confirmed but likely to be late June /early July. Details to follow.

Finally don't forget to visit the trading store to pay your annual membership and purchase a great range of gardening products as well as some seeds still at excellent value.

We have excellent seed potatoes still available and in a range of varieties and now selling at reduced prices.

We also have shallots available and limited supplies of onion sets.

We are next open on Saturday 8 th April from 10.00am

Ashford Allotment Society

Have a good growing season
Penny Winston