

April Newsletter 2018

This is one of the busiest times to be an allotment gardener. Many jobs can usually be started to make sure you get the best crops possible later on but this year's weather and very cold temperatures have made the traditional jobs and digging seem very delayed.

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.

Potato sets are traditionally planted on Good Friday ! However Easter is early this year and many people may wait a week or so although I know a few plots have been planted already. 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.

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 directly to water crops.

With the later start to the growing season we have decided to adjust our timings for our annual show and plot judging . Please see below for details.

Summer Show : The date is August 11 th at our new venue of The Towers School . I am grateful to Brian Stamp for arranging it. 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. The show schedule will be sent out separately and paper copies available at the trading store.

Plot Judging : Date to be confirmed but likely to be mid July Details to follow.

Finally don't forget to visit the trading store to pay your annual membership. 45 people have already paid so please come along and renew membership to take advantage of and purchase a great range of gardening products at very competitive prices.

We have a few spare seed potatoes still available .

We also have shallots available and supplies of onion sets

We are next open on Saturday 14 th April from 10.00am

Have a good growing season

Penny Winston