

June Newsletter 2018

This is one of the busiest times of year to be an allotment gardener. As I write this we are experiencing another spell of really hot weather and young transplanted seedlings will need to be well watered. Other well established plants can survive periods of drought as long as some rain falls this month. Please respect the hosepipe policy and do not water plants directly using a hosepipe. We can now monitor water from site to site and accurately record usage for site comparison. If your site has a water leak please make sure it is reported urgently. Please do everything you can to reduce your water use.

Crops are beginning to be harvested: early peas, broad beans and courgettes are ready and the first new potatoes can be dug. My garlic has developed rust so even in these dry days check crops for signs of disease and especially potato blight. Blackfly have also infested beans on my site.

Most sites have been visited by Alison and Geraldine to audit the general appearance and check for signs of rubbish and unsightly or dangerous structures. With health and safety in mind please make sure you don't have broken glass, rotting wood and rusting metal on your plots which could cause harm to yourself or others. In the future it is hoped that we can organize a clean-up operation for each site to bring it up to a safe and pleasant space in which to work on our plots.

Summer Show: August 11th at our new venue of The Towers School. This is an ideal time to be planning your entries ready to harvest a great range of produce to enter in a full range of categories this year. The show schedule has been sent out separately and paper copies are available at the trading store. Posters and publicity will follow. There will be lots of prizes, the usual raffle and teas/cakes for sale from 2.00pm

Hospice Summer Fair: August 4th and may be slightly different in arrangements from last year due to the ongoing junction 10a construction but please think about growing surplus vegetables and fruit or making pickles and jams which are always popular for our stall to help this worthy charity .

Plot Judging: Date to be confirmed but likely to be 12th July for Westrees, Bybrook, Burton, Beaver Fields, and Musgrove Farm. Saturday 14th for Wye, Henwood, Repton Orion Cryol, William Road Musgrove and Jemmett. Gas House Saturday /Sunday 15th. This is weather dependent and may change subject to availability of site reps and judges.

Finally don't forget to visit the trading store to pay your annual membership. 63 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 had to raise our prices on some items as new orders have come with increased prices. Please see the new price list.

We are next open on Saturday 28th June and 14th July from 10.00am

**Have a good growing season
Penny Winston**

Ashford Allotment Society

