

**A.W.S.L.G. ALLOTMENT NEWS**  
**ADDISCOMBE, WOODSIDE & SHIRLEY LEISURE GARDENS LTD**  
**GLENTHORNE AVENUE, CROYDON. CR0 7EZ.**  
**www.awslg.org.uk**

**TRADING CENTRE  
NEWS**

Thanks to our team of volunteers, old and new, the Trading Centre is open for business at weekends only, from 1030 - 1215 on Saturdays and Sundays.

There is strict observation of social distancing, and payment is by card only. All customers are required to wear a face covering inside the shop, in accordance with Government regulations.

Malcolm (Trading Secretary) has tirelessly researched sources of potting compost and stable manure to keep you supplied. There is a limit of two bags of each per customer to ensure fair shares (two people from one plot count as one customer!).

Beautiful spring bulbs will be available to buy from the beginning of September, giving us all a chance to look forward to colourful pots and borders next Spring.

**NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE**

Bonfires are not allowed during the summer months at all, and this year they were prohibited earlier in respect to our neighbours who may have been sitting outside in their gardens during the lock-down. BBQs are permitted, but they do give off a lot of smoke as they are started and this too can be a nuisance to our neighbours. If you are going to have a BBQ on your plot, be a good neighbour and check to see if the wind is going to blow smoke at our neighbouring houses or nearby plot holders working on their plot. It's not pleasant to be wafted by smoke when you are tending your plot.

**LOCAL WEATHER NEWS REPORT**

Mike Steward has a weather station and is happy to enable plot holders to see the weekly weather forecast for our site - you can email him on [ms120lavcot@icloud.com](mailto:ms120lavcot@icloud.com)

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS**

We are now again collecting donations of your surplus produce for Shrublands Food Bank. Please leave items in the wire cage near the Trading Centre main door. Non-perishable items with six months before expiry date (tins etc) are also welcome, but please bring these to the Trading Centre during

**TRADING CENTRE OPENING TIMES**  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10.30AM TO 12.15PM**

**NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2020**

**COMMITTEE NEWS**

I am sure you will all be pleased to know that the canteen hopes to re-open on Saturday 15th August. This will be confirmed nearer the date. There will be hot and cold drinks only and just biscuits and Kit Kats. Unfortunately at this present time we will not be serving any hot food at all. People must sit outside observing social distancing. Orders will be taken at the front door where you can pick up your biscuits, then your drinks can be collected at the other end by the stable door.

Shed applications can be downloaded from the web page and emailed to us at AWSLG while the office remains closed. All sheds must have water butts installed to them.

Due to the current pandemic there will no annual show this year, but we do plan to have a harvest type festival in October however this has to be subject to the current status of COVID 19 infection rates.

**KEEPING AN EYE ON THE CHILDREN**

It is wonderful to see so many families bringing their children to learn about growing fruit and vegetables, and to explore the wildlife in the Wildflower Garden. If you bring children with you please be sure to keep them on your plot or with you when they visit the Wildflower Garden. We have received complaints in recent weeks of children running and chasing each other across plots and playing on the footpaths. I understand their delight to be on the site, but it is an allotment site and not a park. Rule 11 of the regulations states that children must not cause a nuisance to other plot holders. So please have a thought for your neighbours when children are with you.

## **JOBS TO DO IN AUGUST**

### **FRUIT CARE :**

Cut out fruited canes of summer raspberries and tie in new canes to fruit next year. Select strong, healthy canes and cut out weak, forked or misplaced ones (such as those growing out into the paths). Net autumn fruiting raspberries.

Tie in new growth on blackberries and hybrid berries.

Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners and prepare new strawberry beds for next year. Treat with a fungicide if powdery mildew is serious.

Support heavily laden branches on plums and damsons to prevent breakage. Prune after fruiting.

Remove apples, pears and plums affected with brown rot to prevent the disease from spreading.

Gather scabby leaves from diseased apples and pears. Do not compost anything infected with brown rot or scab instead burn as soon as possible or use the green waste collection as their incinerators heat to such a high temperature that the spores are destroyed.

If bacterial canker has been a problem on stone fruit trees, prune out affected smaller branches, wait until harvest is complete, then spray with a fungicide.

### **VEGETABLE CARE:**

Lift onions, shallots and garlic when ready. Plants should be harvested when the necks start to turn brown and bend over naturally. Avoid actively bending the necks, as this can result in disease. Once harvested, let the tops dry until they rustle like brown paper, and then remove them.

Harvest sweetcorn as it ripens. Push a fingernail into the kernel when the tassels at the end of the cob start to shrivel and brown. If the liquid is milky it indicates they are ready.

Continue earthing up celery, putting a layer of paper between the stems and the soil.

Finish harvesting second early potatoes especially if it turns wet as your crop can be destroyed by slugs.

Weeds can also compete with vegetables for water and act as hosts for pests and diseases, so should be removed regularly by hoeing.

Marrows should be raised off the ground slightly, to prevent them rotting from contact with the soil. Some older leaves can be removed, if necessary, to maximise sun upon the fruit.

Take care when thinning out any late-sown carrot seedlings to prevent the scent released attracting carrot fly females. To protect them from carrot fly use *fleece* or *enviromesh* coverings.

Irregular watering can lead to problems with blossom end rot in tomatoes, splitting of root vegetables and flower abortion in peas and beans. Help prevent this by watering well during dry spells, stored rainwater from a water butt is ideal.

Take cuttings of rosemary, bay and hyssop.

### **LAWN/FLOWER CARE:**

Apply final nitrogenous feed to lawns.

Don't neglect hanging baskets - deadheading, watering and feeding will help them last through until autumn.

Feed containers, and even tired border perennials, with a *liquid tomato or Miracle-Gro* food each week to encourage them to bloom into the early autumn.

Pinks and carnations can be propagated by layering. Propagate irises by dividing the rhizomes.

Take cuttings of tender perennials such as Pelargonium and Osteospermum, as soon as possible. A greenhouse, cool conservatory or a light windowsill are ideal to bring them on until they are established.

Collect and store seed of hardy annuals and perennials for sowing later in the autumn.

### **SOW OR PLANT OUTDOORS**

Japanese onions, Oriental vegetables

Spring cabbage, turnips, lettuce, radish, rocket, sorrel, chicory, fennel & spring onions for late salads. Sow green manures such as crimson clover and Italian ryegrass to act as a soil improver and to cover bare areas.

All items in *bold italic* are available from the Trading Centre.



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