

A.W.S.L.G. TRADING CENTRE NEWS
ADDISCOMBE, WOODSIDE & SHIRLEY LEISURE GARDENS LTD
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AGM REPORT

We were pleased to be able to hold our AGM on the 11th December 2021 and thankful to those who were able to attend. The Chairman's report and annual accounts were presented. Thanks were given to all volunteers who had helped in maintaining the site, also in Trading Hut, Canteen and at the events. Special mention and thanks were given to Victoria Steward who had managed the Canteen and Tricia Pelican who had stood down as Secretary.

Those nominated to stand for the committee were agreed by the Shareholders: David Lay (Vice Chair) Jill Seagroatt (Treasurer) Peter Bashford (Ground Steward) and Steve Gorman, Debbie White, Kin Tse, Malcolm Bridge, Paul Sheehan (Committee Members). The posts of Chair and Trading Treasurer have not reached the end of their three-year term, and therefore Jen Tapping and Alan Perry remain in position.

Lastly the awards were presented. Best Full Plot: Mr and Mrs Philips Plot 348. Best Half Plot: Prunella Glaisher Plot 114a. New Plot Holder, Best Plot: Robert and Debbie White Plot 83.

Volunteer of the Year: Tommy Benson. Wildlife Trophy: Debbie Bryan Plot 19.

Libraries The Canteen Libraries are now online, so plot holders can see what books are available to read up on any problems they may have. The Canteen main Library has a plethora of books on just about every garden subject, and some of the popular ones have two or three copies. If you wish to borrow one, that's ok, all we ask is that you return it within two weeks. The W Johnstone-Bull library is a much older library and was given to the Allotment as a Bequest. Because of this, and the age of some of the books, it is a reference only Library. The book covers are all online to view, and physical access to this can be gained via Bob Taylor who is the current key holder. In the Hall is the Malcolm Bridge Wildlife Library.

To find these libraries on the internet, just type in awslg.libib.com choose the library you wish to look at and when the desired book comes up, click the circles below it then click reviews for any further information. Our thanks to Bob Taylor for his hard work in enabling these libraries to be accessible online.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

SEED POTATOES ON ORDER

First Earlies

Foremost, Maris Bard, Pentland Javelin, Rocket.

Second Earlies

Charlotte, Kestrel, Maris Peer.

Main Crop

Cara, Desiree, Maris Piper, Pink Fir Apple King Edward, Sarpo Mira (slug and blight resistant).

We could not get any International Kidney this year. Prices have increased to £1.40 per kilo, with the exception of Pink Fir Apple £1.75 per kilo.

Pentland Javelin 1st early. These produce heavy crops of short, oval, white skinned tubers with pure-white tasty flesh.

Maris Peer 2nd early. These produce firm white fleshed tubers which do not break up or discolour on cooking. Expect heavy yields of medium sized tubers, which are good boiled. If harvested when small (in June), they are particularly good for making potato salads but you can harvest from July if you prefer bigger potatoes.

Maris Piper main crop. Perfect for roast potatoes. The skins crisp up perfectly and leave a soft fluffy centre on account of the water content. No need to chit before planting, just keep the seed potatoes cool and dry until March when it's time to plant.

SHRUBLANDS FOOD BANK

They were very grateful for the generous donations before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We would like to maintain our donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, and household goods until we have fresh produce to give them. All goods must have a use by date of six months. There will be a box in the canteen, and items will be taken by a volunteer to Shrublands every few weeks.

TRADING CENTRE OPENING TIMES : REOPENING WEEKEND 8TH JANUARY 2022
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10.30AM TO 12.15PM, CANTEEN 10AM TO 12 NOON

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JOBS TO DO IN JANUARY

VEGETABLE CARE:

The number one job is to observe good, basic hygiene rules by removing all plant debris from your plots to reduce the spread and the overwintering of disease and pests.

Parsnips can be left in the ground until needed, or lifted and then buried in a shallow trench for easy access. They taste better when frosted. Make sure to mark the trench as you need to remember where they are and cover it with a protective layer of cardboard if hard frosts are forecast.

If you have Brussels sprouts ready for harvesting, pick the largest sprouts from the bottom of the stalk first. Earth up any Brussels sprouts stalks that look leggy and vulnerable to wind rock. Remove the yellowing leaves to prevent grey mould from becoming troublesome.

If we have some cold weather it is alright to continue winter digging as frost will help to improve the condition of your soil by breaking down larger clods. This also exposes soil pests to bird predators. This is a good time to incorporate soil improvers into vacant areas of your plot.

Clear polythene or **fleece** increases the soil temperature which will help to have earlier spring sowings. Use **Black polythene ground cover** to prevent re-colonisation by weeds and save yourself a back-breaking task in the spring.

Place **mouse controls** near stored vegetables and fruit. Did you know that the Little Nipper mouse trap was designed by James Henry Atkinson in 1897, patented in 1899, this perfect design has hardly changed.

Insulate the greenhouse from frost, **bubble wrap** works very well.

Now is the time to make a manure hotbed by combining a mixture of manure, straw and leaves into a square, empty compost bin. Cover with a layer of **John Innes no 3**. Place a cold frame on top and then you are all set to benefit from the heat generated by the rotting manure as this will aid the germination of crops that can be started in January prior planting out in February.

Net crops to reduce pigeon/parakeet damage. We have black netting available in 2 widths, 2 metre and 4 metre. The trading centre also has supplies of ground staples plus various clips, string and ties.

FRUIT CARE:

New fruit trees and bushes can still be planted providing the ground is not frozen or waterlogged. If the planting site is not ready when they arrive, then heel in the bare-root ones in a spare piece of ground, and leave containerised ones standing - but water them when needed.

Formative pruning of young, free-standing, fruit trees and bushes (under three years old) can also be done from now. They should at first be pruned to encourage branching and bushiness from the main stem. Subsequently, they should be encouraged to form an open-centred 'goblet' shape of main branches, without any being misplaced or crossing.

Check tree stakes and **ties** whilst doing your winter pruning. They may need loosening, replacing, or removing. All the following can be pruned this month: apples, pear, quinces, medlars, currants, gooseberries, autumn raspberries.

Grape vines can also be propagated using eye cuttings. These are shorter than standard hardwood cuttings (having only one bud, or 'eye'), and are used commercially to produce a large number of plants. Only attempt these if you are confident, as longer cuttings have more buds to rely on for rooting.

Divide and plant rhubarb. Cover any crowns in the soil that have been set aside for forcing with an upturned bucket or flower pot and cover the drainage holes to shut out the light. With luck you will be harvesting pale pink sticks soon.

Spray all fruit trees and bushes with a garlic winter wash on a fine day; do not spray in frosty conditions. It won't hurt to hold the job over to next month.

Chitting your seed potatoes.

This simply means encouraging the potato to sprout before planting. Start chitting mid to late January in a frost free place at least 6 weeks before you plant. Each seed potato has a more rounded, blunt end that has a number of eyes. Stand the tubers with the blunt end uppermost in trays or old egg boxes, with plenty of natural light. The potatoes will be ready to plant when the shoots are 1.5-2.5cm (0.5-1in) long.

**THE TRADING CENTRE WILL COMMENCE OPENING SATURDAY AFTERNOONS
ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2022**