

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

**COMMITTEE NEWS**

**NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021**

**Charity Coffee Morning for the Shrublands Trust CFAGS Competition.**

As many of you will be aware the Canteen Team organised a successful Charity Coffee morning on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> in aid of The Shrublands Trust who amongst other things run a foodbank for those in need in the local area; they have a dedicated team of volunteers. It is a delight to be able to support this local Charity, we raised £270.16p Thanks to all who donated and the Canteen Team.

**BBQ – a lovely day**

It was lovely on Bank Holiday Monday to see many of you enjoying the BBQ, there was a friendly atmosphere and many complimented on the delicious food. Thanks to all who helped in the preparation and a special thanks to our three chefs, Mike, Jordan, and Ben. Providing the Covid Restrictions allow, we will be organising further events and BBQs of course but these will be dependent on the weather.

**New Plot Holders Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2.30pm - 3.30pm outside weather permitting on the canteen green – Refreshments Provided.**

It is so good to welcome many new plot holders, their families, and friends to AWSLG. Prior to Covid we used to have a get together one a year for new plot holders, so you could meet the committee, ask questions, talk about AWSLG, gain information about planting, growing and discuss our key messages about maintaining your plots and volunteering. If you have joined us during 2020 or this year, please try to attend.

**The Polytunnel Team says goodbye for this year and thanks you for your support.**

The Plant Sales have been a great success since we moved onto the Canteen Green, the polytunnel team have loved meeting you all and I am sure you have welcomed their advice. We are nearing the end of our season for selling plants and those on the team need to give attention to their own plots. We are already making plans for the future, each year we learn and change our practices. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we could improve, then please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Croydon Federation of Allotments and Gardens.

This is a group representing most allotment sites in Croydon, where we exchange information, discuss our successes and issues, but one of the main annual functions is we have an across sites competition. Last year we were unable to hold this due to Covid, but we are hopeful that the competition will take place this year. Provisional dates have been set Amenity Competition Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (judge the site plots and its amenities (AWSLG 1<sup>st</sup> Place in 2019). Sunday and the following weekend, Best ½ Plot and Full Plot (AWSLG won best ½ Plot 2019.)

**The August Bank Holiday 100 Year Celebration to take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

**Sunday** – The day will be dedicated to the Annual Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show plus some activities on the Green. There will be an afternoon tea and the now famous Auction at the end of the show. We will need help both on the Saturday and Sunday to prepare for the Show and help with the teas. Please email or let Jen Tapping (Chair) know if you are willing to help.

**Monday** - A come together BBQ, Stalls, Music and Entertainment. A fun day for all the family and friends to celebrate. If you would like to have a Craft, Gardening, Face Painting, or Hobby etc. stall at the celebration please let us know. No Jumble Stalls. Again, we would like some offers of help. 100 Years cannot go by without a Major Celebration.

**THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Without all the volunteers who help in so many different ways we would not be able to achieve the many planned projects and social gatherings that we enjoy. Certainly we would not be proud holders of the best allotment site in Croydon. It would be good to open the Trading Centre on a Saturday afternoon again so if you are interested please offer your services. We need cashiers, helpers in the warehouse and staff in the TC..

**TRADING CENTRE OPENING TIMES SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10.30AM TO 12.15PM**  
**CANTEEN OPEN FROM 10AM TO 11.30AM**

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**JOBS TO DO IN JUNE**

**VEGETABLE CARE:**

Stake tall or floppy plants to prevent wind damage, we have a good choice of different **canes, sticks and ties**.

Pinch out the tender tops of broad bean plants and spray against blackfly if necessary.

Early peas may be ready for harvest, you can also eat the pretty clover-like leaves and tendrils that come away with the pod. When the crop is finished cut off the plants at ground level leaving the roots to conserve valuable nutrients in the soil.

Keep carrot fly off carrots by covering them with a fine woven plastic mesh like **Enviromesh**, making sure the corners are well tucked in or buried to prevent any attack.

Weeds start to grow in earnest this month, either hoe or spray. I have found that using a Canterbury hoe is a quick way to deal with the dreaded Mare's Tail. We have a good variety of **weed killer** near the till area.

Harvest lettuce, radish, and early potatoes.

Plant out tomatoes if this has not already been done. Train them up canes or string and pinch out side shoots unless you are growing a bush variety. When 4 flower trusses have formed, pinch out the growing point just above the highest truss.

Continue with successional sowing of salad crops such as Beetroot, Chinese Cabbage, Pak Choi and Radish to ensure an even harvest. Leafy salad crops may do better when sown in partial shade.

Courgettes, Marrows and Pumpkins can still be sown outside in early June. Encourage good fruit set by hand pollinating. Push the male flowers lightly into the female ones.

Plant celeriac and self-blanching celery, these need a well-prepared site with lots of organic matter. Plant the celery in blocks to aid the blanching process.

Continue to earth-up potatoes not ready for harvest, this is even more important now as we are not allowed to use sprays to prevent blight. Earthing up also stops the light from turning the potatoes green and poisonous. Extra potatoes can form on the buried stems.

**FRUIT CARE:**

Put straw around strawberry plants to prevent soil splashing onto the fruit. Alternatively use strawberry mats as this will stop the fruits from touching the soil and getting too damp. Remove any mouldy fruit and leaves promptly to prevent the spread of infection. Cover the whole bed with **netting** to prevent bird damage. Start to peg down some runners for new plants next year. You can even select a couple of plants for this purpose, pinching off any flowers to encourage them on producing green shoots and runners for saving and potting up.

If you have not already done so, hang **pheromone traps** in apple trees to help reduce codling moth numbers, a similar trap is available for red plum maggot on plums. You will need 1 trap for every 3 to 5 trees.

Wait to thin out apples until after the 'June drop'. Pears only need thinning if fruit set is heavy. Thinning can help improve the size and quality of the crop, and prevent a cycle of a good year and then a bad year. Gooseberries can also be thinned, using the unripe fruit for cooking.

Hoe off or pull out raspberry suckers that appear between the rows.

Water tree, bush and cane fruit thoroughly every seven to ten days during dry spells.

**Plants that can help keep pests away.**

Basil - flies, fruit flies and mosquitoes

Catnip - flea beetles (do not use unless you want to drive cats mad)

Horseradish - potato bugs

Lavender - moths, mosquitoes and fleas

Mint - cabbage white butterflies

Nasturtiums - white fly, aphids and beetles

Oregano - cucumber beetles and cabbage whites

Parsley - asparagus beetle

Rosemary - bean beetles and carrot flies

Sage - white butterflies, carrot flies

Tarragon - a good allrounder that repels most insects.

Thyme - cabbage worms, whitefly

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