

A.W.S.L.G. TRADING CENTRE NEWS
ADDISCOMBE, WOODSIDE & SHIRLEY LEISURE GARDENS LTD
GLENTHORNE AVENUE, CROYDON. CR0 7EZ.
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**WILDLIFE MEADOW
NEWS**

The major task of early autumn is the hard cutting of the three meadow areas and this year the complete cut should be accomplished by the end of November. Once cut the arisings are left to dry out, slower this year with the frequent downpours, and then carried away to the haystack mounds which encircle the meadows. These mounds slowly rot down and provide valuable habitat for lizards, amphibians, mice and, occasionally wasp nests. The many mounds of Yellow Meadow ants, almost a hundred now, become very apparent once the mowing is finished. During the winter seed such as Yellow Rattle will be sown in the hard cut areas where bare soil patches have been created. Additionally herbaceous perennials which have been grown in the island beds to a good size, will be transplanted into the meadow to add to the colour and interest of a largely hay meadow. Many of these plants have been donated to the meadow project by generous plot holders who have adopted the wildlife area as an extension of their own plots.

Other winter work will be a good clean out of excess vegetation in the main pond and some more work coppicing and cutting the long hedge of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and buckthorn planted in early 2012.

The Wednesday afternoon volunteers have done a terrific job once again in creating an area of beauty and a real haven for wildlife. Once again butterfly numbers have set new records which suggests that the management is probably along the right lines. At the end of October the team will take a well earned winter break and gather again in early March to prepare for 2020 and another exciting and rewarding year. My grateful thanks to all involved plus our several plant donors.

If anyone can spare just a couple of hours from 1pm on a Wednesday afternoon next year to help our dedicated team of volunteers we will be delighted to see you. At the end of the session you will be welcome to join us for a beverage and cakes.

TRADING CENTRE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The trading centre will be shut from close of business Sunday 15th December and will remain closed until we reopen at 10.30am on Saturday 11th January 2020.

The canteen is open Saturday and Sunday mornings 9.30am - 11.30pm

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019



DATES FOR THE DIARY

The Annual General Meeting of AWSLG Ltd will take place on **Saturday December 14th at 2.30p.m. in the Hall. All plot holders are invited to attend, but only Shareholders may vote.**

Please allow plenty of time for signing in as your name and plot number has to be checked against the register before the meeting can begin. I would suggest turning up at least half an hour in advance.

Nominations required for this year:

Chair
Trading Treasurer
Trading Secretary
Committee Members.

If you are a shareholder, please think about standing for the Committee. We would warmly welcome any new members who feel they could make a contribution and help shape the future of our Society.

Nomination forms will be available from Saturday November 8th, and must be submitted by Saturday November 29th.



SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER
MULLED WINE AND MINCE
PIES IN THE CANTEN

Do come and join us in the canteen from 12.30pm onwards and get into the Christmas spirit. Please bring a bottle or some mince pies to share. We look forward to seeing you there.

At this event Kevin will be collecting donations for the Shrublands Food Bank of non-perishable items.

Facing Christmas with little or no money and struggling to make ends meet can be the reality for many people, very often due to circumstances outside their control. Please do give generously to this local cause.

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JOBS TO DO IN NOVEMBER

VEGETABLE CARE:

Harvest cauliflowers or leave in situ with the leaves snapped and folded down over the curds to protect them.

Celeriac can also be left in the ground for a bit longer but protect them from the cold with a thick mulch of straw or other suitable material.

If you have Brussels sprouts ready for harvesting, pick the largest sprouts from the bottom of the stalk first. Stake any Brussels sprouts stalks that look leggy and vulnerable to wind rock.

Dig up chicory roots to be forced. Pot them up after removing foliage and position them in a dark warm place. The tasty chicons will appear in three to six weeks.

Garlic can still be planted in free-draining soil but be careful if the weather has turned too wet. Otherwise it can be started in containers or modules, and planted out when more mature.

Continue winter digging as the approaching cold weather may help to improve the soil structure by breaking down large clumps into crumbly particles. If plenty of well-rotted organic matter is incorporated in the soil then you will be off to a flying start next year. Cover with **black polythene ground cover** to prevent re-colonisation by weeds and save yourself a back-breaking task in the spring.

Remove yellowing leaves on Brussels sprouts and cabbages to prevent grey mould from becoming troublesome.

Observe good, basic hygiene rules by removing all plant debris from your plots to reduce the spread and the overwintering of disease and pests.

See to those maintenance jobs such as cleaning your bamboo canes and storing in the shed or other dry place to ensure they're still in good condition for next year.

Place **mouse controls** near stored vegetables and fruit.

Insulate the greenhouse from frost, we have a good strong quality **bubble wrap** in stock which works very well.

It is not too late to sow overwintering Broad beans, **Aquadulce** are the best for this time of year.

FRUIT CARE:

Plant any cane, bush and tree fruit ordered last month. Do not plant if the ground is frozen or waterlogged. If the planting site is not ready when plants arrive, then heel in the bare-root ones in a spare piece of ground, and leave containerised ones standing - but water them when needed.

Strawberry runners that have been potted up for forcing in February and March next year, should now be turned on their sides, or placed in a well-ventilated cold frame. Beware of excess moisture or warmth as this could cause rot or precipitate premature growth.

Hardwood cuttings can be taken this month, this is a great way to propagate blackcurrants, redcurrants, white currants, gooseberries and grape vines - providing they are disease (especially virus) free.

Begin your winter pruning of established, open-grown, apple and pear trees (not cordons, espaliers, pyramids or fans) at the end of the month, inspecting the trees carefully. Any sign of canker or staining within the wood (a possible sign of infection) can be investigated and dealt with appropriately.

Clear up fallen apples and pears from the base of trees as this can be a source of infection for next year. Remove any mummified fruit from the branches and burn, do not compost.

Trap winter moths by placing **grease bands** around fruit trees, don't forget to band tree stakes as well if they provide a route up into the branches.

Mulch fruit trees and bushes around the base as this helps to keep the weeds down and can stop the damage when strimming.

Be guided by the weather and only sow, plant or prune if conditions are suitable.

All items written in **bold italic** are available from the Trading Centre. Please support your Allotment Society as it brings in much needed funds for improvements.

HOURS OF OPENING

Saturday 10.30am -12.15pm.

Sunday 10.30am - 12.15pm.

Wednesday 2.30pm - 4.00pm April—September only