

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

EVENTS SCHEDULE

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

November 6th - BBQ on the Canteen Green.

Naturally, this will depend on the weather, but we encourage you to join us for an evening of socialising. Commences at 5pm.

**Artisan and Craft Market - November 20th
10.30am- 4pm in the Hall.**

This is our first market and if successful other markets will be arranged during 2022.

We have been busy booking stallholders and a range of items will be on sale e.g., freshly baked Cakes, Knitted & Crochet Items, Candles, luxury Chocolate, Christmas wreaths and more, so do come and support us, buy your Christmas gifts, there will be something for everyone.

Food and drinks will be on sale throughout the event. Please Invite your friends and family.

**The Annual General Meeting - December 11th
2pm in the Hall.**

Every effort will be made to hold our AGM this year providing there are no changes in the Covid Restrictions. The hall will be well ventilated with all the windows and doors open so do come with your coats on.

The AGM is open to Shareholders and Plot holders but only Shareholders will be able to Vote. Nomination Forms for those interested in becoming a Committee Member will be available in the Trading Hut, Canteen and online from November 20th 2021. Please note those nominated must have been a Plot holder for one year and also a Shareholder. Any Shareholder Application must be returned to the Office by November 6th, 2021.

CANTEEN NEWS

We are pleased to announce that hot food will begin to be served from the 1st November at £2.50 per portion.

Soon you will be able to pay for your food using a card reader, making it easier (and safer) for staff and customers.

TRADING CENTRE UPDATE

One of the most valuable lessons I have learnt in my 40 odd years of tending to my allotment is whatever you take out of the soil needs to be put back. Now is the time for some winter preparation on your soil. The trading centre has a good supply of the ever-popular composted stable manure, a limited amount of Country Natural farmyard manure, 3 bags for the price of 2. A wide range of multi-purpose compost, including reduced peat and peat free are available, all sold in different sized bags. A varied range of fertilizers are sold in 3 kilo bags. Lime is usually added in winter for annual crops, such as vegetables, just prior to digging, as the lime can take effect over the winter months and will not damage young growth.

Despite the current restrictions and problems with the supply chain, the trading centre team have worked tirelessly to maintain stocks as much as possible. Please check us out first before you make that visit to the garden centre. You could be pleasantly surprised at the variety of items stocked and if you wanted that special item just inquire and it could be added to a list for future purchases. Following an incident with three frisky foxes having a good time running up the side and the roof of my polytunnel I was in desperate need of chicken wire. Lo and behold it was in stock, the right amount was cut, two rolls were carried up to my plot and I was able to put up a barricade that very afternoon to stop further damage.

The trading centre is an integral part of our society; it brings in much needed funds for improvements. Please do continue to support us.

SHRUBLANDS FOOD BANK

Please remember those who are in need especially as we approach the festive season. A volunteer makes a regular trip with donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, and household goods. All goods must have a use by date of six months. A box is available for your donations in the trading centre. If you could give on a regular basis that would be appreciated.

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

CANTEEN 10AM TO 12 NOON

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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 in the spring 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. Planting at this time lessens the chances of aphids in the spring.

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 but 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.

Buy while stocks last, we still have a few spring bulbs left. New stock of **seeds** are now on sale including **green manure**, an easy way to add nutrients to your soil.

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.

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