

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

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019

Rents will be collected on the following dates:

Saturday	5th October
Sunday	6th October
Saturday	12th October
Sunday	13th October
Saturday	19th October
Sunday	20th October
Saturday	26th October
Sunday	27th October

Rent Collection will take place in the Hall, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Payments may be made by cash or cheque.

Plot holders must attend in person to pay as we need to check that we have your correct details.

Tenancies are renewed at the discretion of the Society.

Annual Rent will be £74 for a 10 rod plot, £37 for a 5 rod plot and pro rata. There will be a £5 charge for late payments.

If you are giving up your plot, please let us know as soon as possible, and by Friday 11th October at the latest. You can visit the Office any Saturday between 1030 and 1200 to return your keys (and Share certificate if applicable) and claim back your deposit.

TRADING CENTRE AFTERNOON CLOSING

The trading centre has now closed on a Wednesday afternoon, reopening in April 2020. The last opening for a Saturday afternoon will be the 26th October 2019. We will resume our afternoon trading once the seed potatoes are ready to be sold; this is normally towards the end of January or the beginning of February. However this does depend on the prevailing weather forecast at the time, as the company who supply the potato order do not risk sending them if there is the slightest risk of freezing conditions for the journey.

CFAGS 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

We were very proud to host this event for the Croydon Federation of Allotment & Garden Societies.

The weather was perfect on the day, the event was very well attended and our award winning site with all its facilities greatly admired by all the various visitors from other sites throughout the borough. A huge **thank you** must go to all the volunteers, not only from our society but from other organisations who worked tirelessly to make this day an overall success. The various activities both indoor and outside were well planned and popular with young and old alike. There was a lot of interesting information about the last 100 years and how allotments have made an enormous contribution, not only to our wellbeing but to food production during war years.

We are now looking forward to our own 100 year anniversary celebration in 2021. This needs much planning and forethought. Please see the plea for volunteers below if you can help. **We really need you.**

ANNUAL STOCKTAKING

The annual stocktaking went well due to the dedication of many loyal volunteers. So thank you one and all for giving up your Sunday morning, It is a lot of hard work but an essential one.

We are constantly short of willing volunteers, very often it seems as if all our events (and we have had quite a few events lately) are organised by the same people all the time. Please consider how **you** can help us and lessen the load on the existing volunteers. The office is open from 10.30am on a Saturday morning if you would like to discuss this further, alternatively talk to anyone in the canteen, warehouse, trading centre, or the ground steward's working party. We need input from the people who do not contribute in any way, so give it some serious consideration for the sake of the few who do so much.

ONIONS & GARLIC ON ORDER AND DUE IN WEEK BEGINNING 6TH OCTOBER

Red, white and yellow onions and shallots have been ordered, also Elephant and Solent Wight garlic.

Aquadulce broad beans from the polytunnel should be available from 12th October.

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

JOBS TO DO IN OCTOBER

VEGETABLE CARE:

Harvest pumpkins, squashes and marrows when ripe. Leave them in the sun, or in a greenhouse or garage, to let the skins harden and dry off, before storing them in a cool, dry, dark place.

Continue to lift carrots and beetroot, plus any remaining potatoes still in the ground. Only store healthy, intact roots. Parsnips should be left in, as they taste better once touched by the frost.

Pick the last of the remaining runner beans. Any old, stringy ones are better composted than eaten.

Dig up outdoor tomato plants and hang them upside-down in the greenhouse to allow the fruits to ripen. Green tomatoes make good chutney.

Sow overwintering broad beans. Covering the trench with **fleece** or cloches will provide insulation against the cold, as well as protection from pigeons.

Carrots and peas can still be sown in cold frames.

Plant out spring cabbages if not already done. Remember to net them for protection from pigeons. Various **bird netting** is available in the warehouse.

Finish planting **autumn onion sets** for a crop in early to mid-summer next year. 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.

Green manures can still be sown, Grazing Rye is one of the best for overwintering, with deep penetrative roots that break up heavy soil. Slugs and snails can damage early growth. Dig in during early spring.

October is a good time to start winter digging as the approaching cold weather may help to improve the soil structure by breaking down large clumps into crumbly particles. If you have a bad back, don't dig but try and clear as many weeds as possible, spread manure or compost over the surface of the earth, the worms will do the work of incorporating it by taking it down into the soil, this will keep your soil fertile.

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

Bonfires are permitted but please do not start them before 4pm, this will change to 2pm when British Summer Time ends, the clocks go back on Sunday 27th October.

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

Refrain from composting diseased material such as tomatoes affected by blight because the temperatures in domestic compost bins may not be sufficient to kill pests and diseases. Burning the waste, burying it deeply or placing it in the green waste collection are recommended alternative methods.

FRUIT CARE:

New trees can be planted as soon as the autumn weather sets in. The soil will still be quite warm in early October, even if the weather is cool, and the roots of new plants will benefit from this. This is particularly important for peaches and nectarines. Other fruit trees may have a higher tolerance of cold at the roots, and can be planted later in the dormant season.

Prune out any dead, dying or diseased shoots on apple and pear trees that are affected by canker or other problems that can continue to worsen over the winter. Collect fallen apples and pears affected with brown rot. Do not compost. Pick off any affected fruit that remains on the tree otherwise the fruits become mummified and form a source of infection for next year.

Apply **grease bands** to fruit trees and stakes thus protecting them against female winter moths and other pests.

BUY WHILE STOCKS LAST.

Aquadulce broad beans on sale, 50 for £1.

Bulbs, sold loose mix & match, tulips, alliums, mini daffodils and narcissi. Prepared hyacinths.

The polytunnel team have been busy potting up bulbs for Christmas displays. Look out for pots of Prepared Hyacinths, Tête à Tête daffodils and new for this year, Dwarf Irises.

On Gardener's World recently Monty Don demonstrated how delightful Dwarf Irises, with their Intricately etched petals and intriguing patterns are when planted in pots for flowering during the winter months. I shall look forward to these.

HOURS OF OPENING

Saturday 10.30am -12.15pm. Sunday 10.30am - 12.15pm.