

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

**NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**Results of the Scarecrow Competition**

1<sup>st</sup> Paddington Bear Plot 83

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Bride and Robot Plot 281b

3<sup>rd</sup> Masked Man Plot 321

Thank you to those who entered.

**Bonfires**

Usually, we allow plot bonfires to occur between October and March, but we do need to seriously consider the impact of these on our neighbourhood (air pollution) and whether we need to burn things, composting, shredding, and burying organic material are alternatives and preferred methods. Last year we had complaints from neighbours from all roads which surround our site. On investigation some plot holders were burning in windy conditions, burning wet/damp vegetation and some bonfires were unsupervised. If neighbours complain to Croydon Council instead of to us, then there is every likelihood that fines will be issued, and bonfires banned completely.

Therefore, we propose that this year bonfires can start the week of Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> of October – until Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> of November when we will review the situation. Bonfires may start at 2pm and should not be lit after 6pm. Please do not burn in windy conditions and do not burn damp or wet vegetation, this can go into your compost bin. We are asking that, if possible, you arrange to share your fire with neighbouring plots and do not light fires on warm days. You must make sure your fire is out before leaving your plot.

Again, if the weather is good, we encourage you to use the November 5<sup>th</sup> weekend for your fires – we will be having a BBQ, drinks and Sparkles event on the Canteen Green so when you have finished your fire please join us – more details to follow.

The Macmillan coffee morning event in the canteen raised £356.50. Thanks to the many cake donations from ploholders this ran over both Saturday and Sunday, everyone's generous support was hugely appreciated - thank you all. A special thanks to Beth and Victoria for organising it.

**Newsletter October 2021**

**Hire of the Hall:** Several plot holders have recently hired the hall for their celebration events, if you would like to hold an event in the Hall please email us on [awslg.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:awslg.ltd@gmail.com) or come to the office on a Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am to discuss your needs and complete an application form.

**Social Events:** We have asked two volunteers to help us organise a programme of Social and Education Events, this will be published soon. Tentatively we have already discussed holding a Halloween Event + Autumn Pumpkin Competition, We will be having a Christmas Event but are still considering its format, more details to follow.

**Craft Fair:** A provisional date for a Craft Fair on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> November has been agreed – if you would like a Stall at this event, please let us know as soon as possible, email us at [awslg.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:awslg.ltd@gmail.com) if you are interested. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

**NEWS OF THE WILDLIFE MEADOW**

The meadow's big event during our Centenary event was the arrival of the mural depicting the meadow's butterflies which was declared "open" by Simon Saville, Chair of Surrey/SW London Butterfly Conservation. He congratulated the artist, Alan Jenkins, who has worked so hard on this glorious mural through three lockdowns.

The Brown Hairstreak, has bred in the meadow for at least three years and each winter its eggs have been found in the meadow, laid on the stems of the abundant blackthorn (sloe). I had the good fortune to enjoy the sight of the adult butterflies, a colourful hairstreak was perched on a Tithonia in one of our island beds waiting patiently for some sunshine to provide the necessary warmth to allow her to get on with laying eggs for next year's butterflies.

October marks the start of the annual meadow cut when the whole meadow will be hard cut and, as if by magic, eighty or so ant hills will reappear. The November rake and clearance of the cut material - quite a task as several of you know - will mark the end of our Wednesday sessions and herald a three month break until early March.

(This is an abridged version, the full article complete with pictures can be found on our website).

**TRADING CENTRE OPENING TIMES - SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10.30AM TO 12.15PM**  
**SAT 2.30PM TO 4.15PM CANTEEN OPEN FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON**

## **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, lay cardboard and spread manure or compost over the surface, 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.

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.

Take cuttings of currants and gooseberries and dig up rooted layers of blackberries and hybrid berries.

Autumn is also a good time to mulch under fruit trees and bushes with either garden compost, woodchip or bark chippings. Chippings will help keep weeds down while garden compost will improve soil structure and fertility.

### **ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE**

Now is a good time to tend to greenhouses and polytunnels. Even if you don't think the glass or plastic needs cleaning, do it anyway and you will be amazed by the results because this has the added advantage of increasing the light levels during the winter months. With fewer crops occupying the space, it's easier to have a tidy up and repair any damage before the harsh winter months can make things worse. If you have planted winter crops then reduce ventilation and watering to reflect falling temperatures.

The trading centre still has stock of competitively priced spring bulbs but hurry as these are selling fast. Garlic will be on sale from this weekend., 2nd/3rd October.