



AWSLG SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to your plot

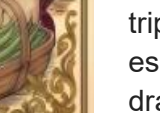
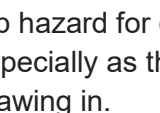
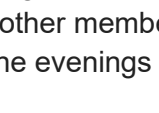
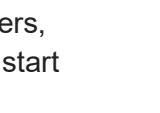
September arrives this year like a held breath finally let out. After a summer of heatwaves and hosepipe bans, the cooler mornings and heavier dew feel like a small mercy — even if the rain itself is still largely holding off. The plot has earned a rest, and so, frankly, have we.

It has been an odd growing year: an early, generous harvest for many crops, but real struggle for others as the heat took its toll. Walk the site now and you'll see both stories side by side — magnificent onions and squash next to tomatoes that gave up early, tree fruit that dropped before its time as trees fought to conserve moisture. September is when we start totting up the season's balance sheet and deciding what to do differently next year.

This is also the month the site quietly turns a corner. The equinox falls on the 23rd, when day and night are briefly equal before the nights begin to win. Spiders' webs suddenly seem to be everywhere, strung with dew each morning — not a sign of anything sinister, just more silk catching more moisture as the mornings cool. And, of course, the Annual Show is nearly upon us: see Committee Corner for where to find all the details.



COMMITTEE CORNER



STOP PRESS 
AWSLG Annual Show

If you've already decided which categories you're going to enter, please complete your entry form and, where possible, post it through the post box on the main gate this week. Getting entries in early really helps the Committee start preparing the categories and organising the hall ahead of the day — so the sooner, the better!

And a special word to our new plot holders: please don't hold back. You have your own dedicated section in the Show, and we would genuinely love to see you take part. Whether it's your first vegetable, your first jar of jam, or your first go at all, everyone starts somewhere — come and enjoy it.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER — HOSEPIPE BAN STILL IN FORCE

Despite the recent rain, the hosepipe ban across our area has not been lifted. Please keep using watering cans where you can, and if you do use a hose, never leave it running unattended — every drop matters while the ban is in place.

PATHWAYS AND OVERGROWTH

The recent rain has done wonders for the weeds as well as the vegetables. Please take a few minutes on each visit to keep the paths around your own plot clear — overgrown grass and bramble creeping across a path is a trip hazard for other members, especially as the evenings start drawing in.

TOGETHER WE KEEP OUR ALLOTMENTS THRIVING!

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Contact the Secretary or any Committee member **Email:** awslg.ltd@gmail.com

Members & Community News

ANNUAL AWSLG COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

Saturday 26th September
10am—12 noon
at the Community Centre
(replaces “in the canteen”)

A Fundraiser for Macmillan.
All proceeds go to Macmillan Cancer Support.
Cards or cash accepted.

Donations of cakes and biscuits
would be lovely — please bring
these in by 10am if possible.

All welcome, members, plot
holders and family alike!

SAVE THE DATES

KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sunday 6th September
- The Annual Show

Saturday 26th September -
Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 14th November
- The Artisan Fair

VOLUNTEERING & SUPPORT

Saturday 12th September
- Tidy Up the Site Morning

Don't forget
Every Second Friday of Each Month
- Knit and Natter
from 2pm until 4pm

AND WATCH OUT FOR ANY SALSA DATES!

SHRUBLANDS FOOD BANK DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

Collection point: The Green Wire container in the community garden near the allotment shop. **Collection day:** Thursdays. Please aim to place donations in the container by Wednesday for collection on Thursday. Weekend Picks: Please bring surplus donations directly to the overflowing harvest table or at the allotment shop for cool storage.



ENCOURAGE YOUR LITTLE GROWER TO TAKE PART!

The Children's Section is one of the Show's highlights, and every year we're delighted by what our young growers come up with — wonky vegetable animals, tiny gardens in a tray, and photos taken with a real eye for plot life. It doesn't need to be perfect; it just needs to be theirs.

Entering is a lovely way for children to feel proud of the time they've spent on the plot, and there's nothing quite like watching a child carry their own exhibit into the Show hall. So please do encourage them to have a go — we can't wait to see what they bring along this year!

The entry form is at the end of the newsletter.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT HOURS

A gentle reminder that our regulations ask every plot holder to give at least four hours a year to the Society. If you haven't yet put yours in, the Show is a lovely, sociable way to do it — whether that's helping with set-up, welcoming visitors on the day, or helping clear away afterwards. Let any Committee member know if you can lend a hand.

This Month's Growing Guide

September is a month of two jobs at once: bringing in everything the summer has given you, and quietly setting up next year

WHAT TO HARVEST NOW

Apples and pears, plums, and autumn-fruiting raspberries are all ready to pick. Maincrop potatoes can be lifted, sweetcorn is at its best, and courgettes, French beans, tomatoes, cucumbers and the last of the summer squash should all still be checked regularly. You can cut down asparagus foliage once it

★ THE GOLDEN RULE FOR SEPTEMBER:

Harvest generously, but don't let the plot go bare. Every crop you lift creates space — fill it with a green manure or a late sowing rather than leaving soil empty over winter.

PRIORITY JOBS THIS MONTH

Listed in order of importance — focus on the top jobs first.

- 1. Lift maincrop potatoes.** Clear away the top growth first to help reduce the risk of blight next year, and take care not to damage the tubers so they store well.
- 2. Harvest fruit as it ripens.** Cup an apple in your hand and twist gently upwards; if it comes away easily, it's ready to pick. Pick plums and raspberries regularly to keep them at their best.
- 3. Sow for overwintering.** Spinach, winter lettuce, rocket and other salad leaves can all still be sown now for autumn and winter picking.
- 4. Plant overwintering onion sets.** Birds often peck newly planted sets out of the ground, so protect them with fleece or netting until they've rooted in.
- 5. Cover bare soil.** Sow a green manure, such as winter tares or Italian ryegrass, on any beds that won't be used again this year, to protect and feed the soil over winter.

LATE SUMMER CARE

- 1. Water Consistently.** Keep watering consistently during dry spells, as irregular watering can cause splitting in tomatoes and root vegetables



- 2. Pest Control.** As squash and pumpkin foliage begins to die back, keep an eye out for slugs finding their way to ripening fruit — raising fruit off damp soil on a tile or piece of wood helps enormously. Wasps become more troublesome around ripening fruit this month; picking promptly and disposing of with cooler, damper nights returning, this is the point in the year when powdery mildew



- 3. Disease management.** With cooler, damper nights returning, this is when powdery mildew tends to appear on courgette and squash leaves—it looks alarming but rarely affects the crop itself; simply remove the worst-affected leaves to keep air moving.

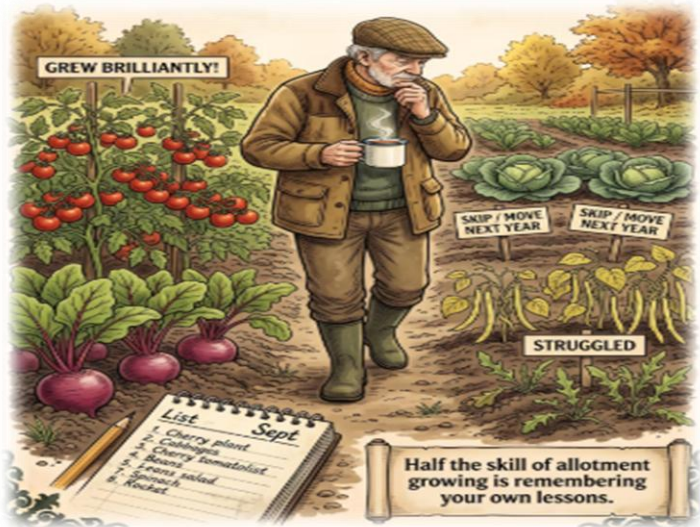


New to Your Plot

Welcome if this is your first September on the plot! This is the month the growing year finally exhales a little. The frantic watering and daily harvesting of high summer eases off, but don't be tempted to disappear until spring — September is quietly one of the most useful months of the year for setting yourself up for an easier 2027.

YOUR SEPTEMBER JOBS (IN ORDER)

- 1. Keep harvesting regularly.** Beans, courgettes and tomatoes still need checking every visit — produce left on the plant will spoil just as quickly as it did in summer.
- 2. Sow a patch of winter salad.** A packet of winter lettuce or rocket sown now will keep you in fresh leaves right through autumn, for very little effort.
- 3. Clear finished crops promptly.** Once a plant has stopped producing, pull it out, add healthy material to the compost heap, and either sow a green manure or leave the bed ready for autumn planting.
- 4. Take stock of your plot.** September is a natural point to walk your plot with a cup of tea and a notebook: what grew brilliantly, what struggled, what you'd move or skip next year. Half the skill of allotment growing is remembering your own lessons.
- 5. Say hello to your neighbours.** As the pace slows, it's a good month to get to know the plot holders around you, if you haven't already — a friendly word over the fence is how most of the best allotment tips get passed on



WHAT NOT TO DO IN SEPTEMBER

- Do not leave ripe produce on the plant — it encourages wasps and will spoil quickly.
- Do not leave cleared beds bare over winter — sow a green manure or cover with mulch.
- Do not water in the heat of the day — early morning or evening is best, and remember the hosepipe ban.
- Do not assume the season is over — September and October can still produce a surprising amount from a well-tended plot.

Grower's Tips

A few less obvious jobs worth fitting in this month, alongside some thoughts for anyone weighing up the Annual Show.

SHEDS, GREENHOUSES & WATER BUTTS

With the worst of the heat behind us, September is the ideal month to catch up on plot maintenance before the fixing weather runs out. Check greenhouse and polytunnel panels for damage, clean out water butts, check that downpipes are clear ahead of the autumn rains, and give shed roofs a once-over for any leaks that will only get worse once winter sets in.



CHOOSING & PREPARING SHOW ENTRIES

If you're weighing up whether to enter the Show, the simplest approach is to walk your plot and pick out whatever looks genuinely good right now, rather than trying to force something into shape. A smaller, uniform group of vegetables usually beats a mixed bag of odd sizes. Harvest as close to the day as possible, wash gently without scrubbing, and let cut flowers rest overnight in water in a cool spot so they're properly conditioned by morning



Nature & Wildlife Garden Watch

SEPTEMBER BRINGS

A GENTLE SHIFT ON THE PLOT.

Look closely on a September morning and the plot is strung with spiders' webs, each one beaded with dew and briefly spectacular before the sun burns it off.

It isn't a sudden population boom — orb-weaver spiders have been quietly growing all summer and are simply at their largest and most visible now, just as the cooler, damper nights make their silk easier to spot. Dahlias, asters, rudbeckias and helenium's are having their moment, and it's worth taking five minutes to enjoy them before the first proper frost. Swallows and house martins will be gathering on wires around the site ahead of their long migration south — a genuinely lovely thing to stop and watch if you catch them. Hedgehogs are also busy fattening up for hibernation, so if you're clearing back growth, do check underneath first.



♥ NATURE NOTE:

Resist the urge to tidy everything away. Leaving seed heads standing and a few fallen leaves in a corner gives finches something to feed on and shelter for insects and hedgehogs right through the colder months ahead.



ROASTED TOMATO & RUNNER BEAN TRAYBAKE

Ingredients (serves 4):

- 500g mixed tomatoes, halved
- 300g runner beans, sliced
- 2 red onions, cut into wedges
- 3 cloves garlic, left whole in their skins
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- A handful of fresh basil or thyme
- Salt and black pepper
- A little crumbled feta or goat's cheese, to serve (optional)

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200°C (Gas mark 6). Tip the tomatoes, runner beans, onion wedges and garlic cloves into a large roasting tray. Drizzle over the olive oil, season well with salt and pepper, and toss everything together.

Roast for 25–30 minutes, turning once halfway through, until the vegetables are tender and lightly caramelised at the edges.

Squeeze the softened garlic out of its skin and stir it through the vegetables. Scatter over the fresh herbs and, if using, crumble over a little feta or goat's cheese just before serving.

Delicious on its own with crusty bread, or alongside grilled fish or sausages. Any leftovers keep well



AWSLG Ltd

ANNUAL SHOW

Sunday 6th September 2026

2.30pm - 5pm

SHOW SCHEDULE AND REGULATIONS

Event Programme

2.30pm - Show Hall Opens, Afternoon Teas

4.00pm - Auction of Produce

For Queries Contact: awslg.ltd@gmail.com

Office open Saturday 10.30am -12midday

REGULATIONS

1. The Show is open to all, except for classes for AWSLG Allotment holders only.
2. All exhibits must be grown or made by the exhibitor
3. **Entry forms** must be completed and returned to the Trading Hut or Office or Post-box by **Wednesday September 2nd**
4. Photography Classes – Photos (Sized 7 x 5 ins)
5. AWSLG retains copyright of all entries
6. Only one entry per class, except where otherwise stated
7. Once exhibitor has entered the show hall with entries you **cannot** change or enter any further classes
8. The AWSLG will exercise every care but cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.
9. Exhibits must not be removed before the auction at 4.30pm
10. The judges' decisions are final.

STAGING/JUDGING

1. For information on how to prepare your exhibits vegetable/ fruits etc for judging please refer to Royal Horticultural Website. Please ensure all vegetables are washed and cleaned.
 2. The hall will be open at the following times only to stage exhibits: **Saturday 5th September 2:00pm- 4:pm Sunday 6th September 9:00am –10:30am**
 3. Exhibitors will be issued with their Exhibitor Cards on arrival at the hall, cards should be placed face down and **must not be altered**. Vases, plates, and sand for shallots will be provided by the Society.
 4. **Please Note.** To ensure the exhibits are ready for judging at 11am all exhibitors must leave the hall by 10:45am.
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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Class Number	Details	Number of Specimens
	DOMESTIC	
1.	Victoria Sandwich (please use recipe on page 6)	1
2.	Butter Scones (please use recipe on page 6)	4
3.	Jar of homemade Jam	1
4.	Jar of homemade Marmalade	1
5.	Jar of homemade Jelly	1
6.	Jar of homemade Chutney	1
7.	Homemade Cordial (any type/size flavour)	1
8.	Homemade Wine (white/ red)	1
9.	Homemade Spirit	1
	FLOWERS AND FLORAL DECORATION	
10.	Vase of flowers one kind or a mixture. Vase supplied	1
11.	Dahlias, please note buds count as blooms. Vase supplied	5 blooms
12.	Vase of Foliage	1
13.	Dinner Table Arrangement	1
	FRUIT	
14.	Apples- Cooking	3
15.	Apples- Dessert	3
16.	Plums	5
17.	Blackberries (Please keep stalks on)	10
18.	Raspberries (Please keep stalks on)	10
19.	Pears	3
20.	Any Tree fruit not specified above, quantity at exhibitor's discretion.	
21.	Any Soft fruit not specified above, quantity at exhibitor's discretion	
	VEGETABLES (Clean and pest free)	
22.	Beetroot	3
23.	French Beans	8

24.	Runner Beans	8
25.	Cabbage any variety, with a 3-inch stalk	1
26.	Carrots – any colour or variety	3
27.	Chilli – any colour or shape	5 of same type
28.	Courgettes Any Colour minimum 100-150mm / 4inches	4
29.	Cucumber	2
30.	Radish	6
31.	Garlic – any type	3
32.	Mixed Herbs,	1 Vase
33.	Marrow table not exceeding 350mm /15inches long	2
34.	Onions each one over 250g	3
35.	Onions each one 250g or under	3
36.	Onions grown from sets	3
37.	Pepper any colour	2
38.	Potatoes coloured	3
39.	Potatoes white	3
40.	Shallots, exhibition- large - Please name variety if known	10
41.	Shallots, 30mm diameter or under - Please name variety if known	8
42.	Squash any type	2
43.	Sweetcorn	2
44.	Tomatoes- large, 75mm diameter and over	3
45.	Tomatoes-medium, 36mm to 74mm	5
46.	Tomatoes- small or cherry fruited, 35mm or under	8
47.	Any other vegetable not specified above, quantity at exhibitors discretion	
	NEW PLOT HOLDERS (Joined after August 2025)	
48.	New plot holders only (Joined after August 2025) Potatoes – white or coloured	2
49.	New plot holders only (Joined after August 2025) Trio of Vegetables	3
	NOVELTY VEGETABLES – Open to all	
50.	Heaviest Marrow	1

51.	Longest Carrot	1
52.	Longest Runner Bean	1
53.	An Ugly Vegetable	1
	PHOTOGRAPHY - Max.two photographs per person per class. (size 7" x 5")	
P1	Life on the Allotment	1 or 2
P2	Vegetables/ Flowers	1 or 2
P3	Wildlife	1 or 2

RECIPE: VICTORIA SANDWICH CAKE

Ingredients

175 g Butter/Margarine , 175 g Caster Sugar, 3 eggs, beaten, 175 g Self-Raising Flour, Jam

Method

Preheat oven to 190c (Gas mark 5). Grease and line 2 sandwich tins (**any size**).

Beat butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy then add the eggs a little at a time, beating well after each addition.

Fold in half of the flour with a metal spoon, then fold in the rest.

Divide the mixture evenly between the tins and level with a knife.

Bake for 20 minutes, until well risen, firm to the touch and beginning to shrink away from the sides of tins.

When cool, sandwich together with jam only. **Do not** put sugar on top of the sponge.

RECIPE: SCONES

Ingredients:

225g Self Raising Flour, 40g Butter, ½ tablespoon Caster Sugar, Pinch of Salt, 150ml Milk,

A little extra flour.

Method

Preheat oven to 220c (Gas mark 7).

Grease a baking sheet and dust with flour,

Sift the flour into a bowl and rub in the butter.

Stir in sugar and salt.

Using a knife mix in a little milk at a time to make a soft dough

Turn the mixture onto a floured surface and roll out

Use a 5 cm cutter, cut out scones and place on the floured baking sheet

Dust each scone with a little flour and bake near the top of the oven for 12-15 minutes

ENTRY FORM

AWSLG ANNUAL SHOW – SUNDAY September 6th 2026

I wish to enter an exhibit in the following classes															
Class	Entry	Class	Entry	Class	Entry	Class	Entry	Class	Entry	Class	Entry	Class	Entry	Class	Entry
1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
9		10		11		12		13		14		15		16	
17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24	
25		26		27		28		29		30		31		32	
33		34		35		36		37		38		39		40	
41		42		43		44		45		46		47		48	
49		50		51		52		53							

I agreed to abide with the Show Regulations and declare that my entries conform with them

Name (block letters)

.....

Plot or phone

Number.....

Email.....

Signed.....



AWSLG ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Class Number	Description	Number of Entries	Please tick
P1	Life on Allotment		
P2	Vegetables/ Flowers		
P3	Wildlife		

Rules: Max. two photographs per person per category

All photographs **MUST** be taken on the AWSLG site

The Society retains copyright of all entries

I agree to abide with the rules and declare that my entries conform to them

Name (block letters)

Number of photos entered..... Plot or phone number.....

Email.....

Please ensure your name and plot/phone number is written on the back of each photograph.

🌸 Annual Allotment Show – Children's Section Entry Form 🌸

👤👤 Child's Information

- Full Name: _____
- Age on Show Day: _____

👤👤 Parent/Guardian Contact

- Name: _____
- Plot or Phone Number: _____

Appendix

- Email Address: _____

🏆 Entry Categories (Tick all you wish to enter)

Code	Category	Tick
C1	Vegetable Animal	☐
C2	Miniature Allotment or Garden in a Plastic Tray (max size 38cm x 23cm)	☐
C3	Three Iced Cupcakes	☐
C4	Decorated Flowerpot	☐
C5	One Photo (max 10cm x 15 cm) – "Life on the Plot"	☐

