

View from the Chair

Good day fellow Allotmenters

I am sure many of you are busy catching up as the planting season starts to take off and seizing any opportunity you can to work on your plot when the sun comes out. I recently read a good tip which is not to forget to take some time to stand still and admire your work and progress.

As a word of encouragement to new plot holders, one of the things that I found helpful when I first started was to take photos of my plot. When I look back at these photos I realise how much I have achieved and how much pleasure this has given me.

Dave Osborn and volunteers have been busy nurturing plants to be sold at the plant sale [on Saturday 12th May 2018](#). If any members are keen to volunteer to help out on the day, please let Dave Osborn or a trustee know as your help would be very much appreciated.

I have noticed that many members have responded well to my request to clear and remove rubbish from their plots and I would like to thank you for your efforts. The spring inspection of plots is well under way. Inspection letters will be sent out soon to those who fall below the standard but it is hoped that not too many letters will need to be sent.

Happy digging

Maria (MRALGA Chair)

Events

We have our Annual Mega Plant Sale on Saturday 12th May from 10 to 4pm.

We have been working in the last two months to grow a wide selection of vegetables, herbs and flowers which will come to you at very reasonable prices.

You can help please by taking posters and flyers to your place of work, local shops and your local pub. These please can be collected from the trading hut on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 10 and 12. Your support as always is most appreciated along with your family and friends.

Chutney and preserves workshop Saturday 7th July
Tickets £5 including lunch and tasters

Visit Kathy Browns garden
Saturday 14th July
Tickets £10 including wonderful cakes
Please come to the shop to book your tickets

Hope to see you soon
Dave Os

Trading hut

We would like your feedback about the trading hut. We have added a few new lines to the trading hut stock and welcome additional ideas.

The Trading hut is open, Saturdays and Sundays from 10-12 noon. Thursday`s are subject to volunteer availability.

If you would like to help in the trading hut or tea room please let us know.

Welcome to the following New Tenants

169.1 Michael Munemo , 170.1 Jessica Bare ,180 Motiezus , 304 Erjon Arapi
243 Paula Teodomsui, 271 Nick Merryweather and 388 Yuliya Dimitrova.

We have a few plots available.so please spread the word to colleagues, friends and family.

Tips of the Month

May is often thought of as the first month of summer and end of the spring. It is a month when we can get caught out by mini droughts, heat waves and also late frosts. The biggest threat is to any young plants that have recently been transplanted into the open ground and any freshly emerging seedlings. Be sure to keep all of them well watered and if the young transplants look as if they are flagging give them some shade protection from the heat of the sun or drying winds

Harvest Sprouting broccoli, cabbage, spinach, rhubarb, spring onions, early sown lettuce, beetroot, radish and peas. Cut asparagus regularly to maintain the supply. Start to remove the side shoots on tomatoes .Use up of the last leeks. Clear away any old or finished crops and dig over the soil and prepare the site ready for the next crop.

Sowing and planting Plant in pots or trays under glass, Dwarf and climbing French beans, runner beans, sweet corn, outdoor cucumbers, courgettes ,pumpkins, squashes, outdoor cucumbers – all which can be planted out next month. Thin out whilst still very small, the seedlings of beetroot, carrots, lettuce, onions, parsnips, turnips and always water along the row to settle the disturbed seedlings back in, once the job is completed.

Put up poles for runner and climbing French beans. Support peas and broad beans before they become too tall. Start to earth up potatoes especially if a frost is forecast.

Pest and diseases

Look out for blackfly on broad beans, greenfly on peas, lettuce, cabbage root fly, carrot fly, thrip damage on brassicas especially when the plants are small. Spray the affected plants with soapy water (diluted washing up liquid) or squash the flies with your thumb and finger. You can buy insecticides if you prefer from the trading hut at a very reasonable price.

Please could Tenants collect your GDPR and NAS insurance letter from the trading hut

Enjoy your plot!

MRALGA Trustees.