

ALLOTMENT

Newsletter, Issue 2, 2017



From Allotment Officers

We hope that you had a good year on the allotments last year and are getting ready for warmer months. Here are some information on how to report issues and how to enjoy gardening safely at allotment sites.

If you see **anything or anyone acting suspiciously** please report it to the police on telephone number 101 and then call/email the Allotment Officers at Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council on 01908 649 469 or pam.price@bfstc.co.uk or mika.minnitt@bfstc.co.uk

If you have any **damage** to or a **theft** from your plot please report it to the police on telephone number 101 and then call/email the Allotment Officers at Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council on 01908 649469 or pam.price@bfstc.co.uk or mika.minnitt@bfstc.co.uk and tell them the details and the police crime reference number.

Accidents and incidents can occur at any time, make sure you are prepared and have a fully stocked first aid kit with you.

Make sure you carry your mobile phone and have emergency numbers set on a speed dial.

Always tell a member of the family or a friend where you are and what time you expect to leave the allotments.

Contact Details

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council
74/76 Queensway, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, MK2 2SA
Tel: 01908 649 469

Bonfires

Bonfires are prohibited except on **weekday afternoons from the hours of 16.30 onwards** and the **following Saturdays between 10 am and 2 pm (weather permitting)**:

1st April 2017
3rd June 2017
2nd September 2017
2nd December 2017

All fires must be supervised at all times by the tenant and fully extinguished before the tenant leaves the site.

Opportunities to be Featured in the Next Edition



We would love to hear and see what you have been working on at your plots. If you would like your story and/or pictures of your plot to appear in the next Allotment Newsletter, please send them to Mika.Minnitt@bfstc.co.uk

On the cover: Illustration by Laura Hughes

Seasonal Work to Do

Source: Thomson and Morgan

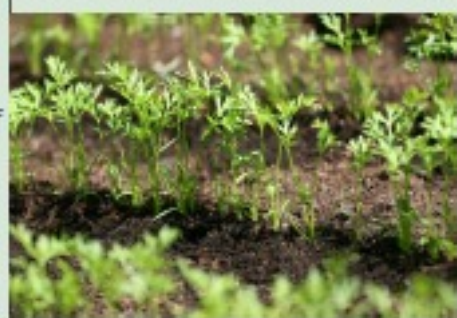
April

- Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost, well rotted manure or green waste into your beds to prepare for the growing season.
- Plant your chitted potatoes outside in the ground or in potato grow bags.
- Harvest asparagus spears when they are no more than 18cm tall.
- For quick and easy pea supports push some twiggy sticks around your pea plants now.
- Thin your carrot seedlings to achieve good-size carrots - do this in the evening when fewer carrot flies are around.
- Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting.
- Many crops can be direct sown into the ground now including parsnips, cabbages and radishes.
- Build raised beds to take the bending out of growing vegetables.



May

- Continue earthing-up potatoes. Read our potato growing guide for information about how to earth up potatoes.
- Harvest rhubarb, picking only a third of the total amount of stems.
- Thin out direct-sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings then water the rows well.
- Harden off outdoor tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins for planting early next month.
- Plant out brassicas and leeks to their final positions.
- Protect crops from carrot fly by covering with horticultural fleece or enviromesh.
- Pinch out the growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly attack.
- Weed around your onions and garlic to reduce competition for nutrients and water. Applying an onion fertiliser will boost growth.
- Use 8ft (2.4m) bamboo canes to make supports for your runner beans.
- Support your pea plants with twiggy sticks or pea netting.
- Be vigilant with weeding - weeds will compete for precious water, light and nutrients.



Allotment Meeting

Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 6.30 pm

at The Methodist Hall, Queensway, Bletchley

Agenda

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Matters Arising
4. Larch Grove Site
5. Manor Fields Site
6. Orchardside Site
7. Any other Business
8. Date and Time of next meeting

