

Hook Allotment Association

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2019

NEW GROWTH ON THE WAY

Welcome to a new growing season, full all the hopes and dreams that emerging from hibernation bring.

Over the winter I have been reading a seasoned gardening book published in 1976 by two sisters, Maureen and Bridget Boland. In it they talk about old folklore and tales from old wives. They have a whole section dedicated to weed management; they recommend for couch grass to sow turnips thickly as the couch cannot grow where turnip are sown and likewise lupins and tomatoes deter the weed. For Horsetail ground ivy and ground elder marigolds are recommended particularly *tagetes minuta*. They talk of a garden they stayed in as children and how the owner had marigolds everywhere to deter bad soil nematodes and pests. It's wonderful the amount of traditional and new advice for gardening that crosses the time divide - marigolds are a garden staple for organic gardeners from ages past to the modern day.

Dad and I attended a talk at the potato fair this year where the speaker talked about the field trials they had, planting seeds only on the full moon, the speaker suggested that using this method you will improve your yields. They saw a notable difference in their potato trials (I can't remember the figure well enough but I think it was 3kg) so, this year I'm trialing only planting to the full moon.

I love swapping advice and tips with you all on site. Whatever your allotment dreams the committee and I wish you a happy year ahead with good growing success. Emma Checksfield – Chairman

PLOT INSPECTIONS

In order to help keep the site in a respectable sate for everyone, full plot inspections will be carried out every two months starting w/c 22nd April. Follow up checks carried out in months between full plot inspections. The purpose is to make sure that plots are being reasonably cultivated and that they are not causing a nuisance, for example through excessive weeds that can seed into neighbouring plots.

VACANCIES

There are a number of plot vacancies, so if you know anyone who might be interested, direct them to the website (hookallotments.co.uk), where there is a membership pack.

WATER

As in previous years, the water has now been turned on. Please be mindful of site rules around watering and the use of hoses, etc.

THANKS

Our thanks to Dave Webb for pruning the fruit trees at the top of the site – nice one Dave!

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IT'S RUBBISH

A lot of items are being left around the gate – again. Please don't leave stuff here in the hope that someone else will either want it or clear it away. Your rubbish is your responsibility, so please clear it away from the site.

MUCK!

Please don't forget to pay for manure you take from the heap neat the toilet. It's good honest muck and we need an honest £2 per barrow you take so we can get more. There's an honesty box where you can put cash (emptied VERY regularly) or you can pay direct to the HAA bank account.

DIARY DATES

Your not to be missed HAA AGM is on Thursday 16th May at the Elizabeth Hall. Our thanks go to Lorrel and Peter for donating the room hire to us.

In addition, we will have a stand at the Annual Village Meeting on Wednesday 1st May at the community centre. An opportunity to catch up with folk and hear what's going on in your village. Thanks again to Lorrel and Peter for being there to chat to prospective allotmenters!

HOOK IN BLOOM COMPETITION

Look out for the entry forms when they plop through your door towards the end of May and plan to enter your allotment, baskets and front garden in the competition. This year the printing and distribution of the leaflets is sponsored by The Plant Centre at Hortus Loci, who have also put a £5 off £20 spend voucher on the leaflets so that everyone in Hook can benefit when buying their superb plants. They are also sponsoring the £25 voucher for the winner of the Best Allotment.

HOOK FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

Date for the diary – Hook Community Centre has been booked for Sunday 8th September 2019 for the Hook Flower & Produce Show. This is your chance to show off your growing prowess – from spuds to toms, carrots and much, much more.

Watch out on the website, in Hook Focus and the summer newsletter for the categories' list. New this year is the 'Hortus Loci Best in Show' trophy.



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PLANT SALE

This year we will have a plant stall at Grand Parade, Hook (opposite the Post Office) on Saturday, 25th May from 9:30am to noon to raise money for the allotments. We need two things to make it work:

- Please bring along plants that we can sell – at 9:30am on the day or shortly after please.
- Volunteers required to help set up and then sell the plants. Please email emma.checksfield@hookallotments.com if you can help.

MEMBERSHIP

This is a vacant role that needs filling on the committee, it's a great role for a family to take on or for allotment neighbours to share. The current committee are time sharing this role until a volunteer comes forward.

The current management committee of the Hook Allotment Association is:

- Emma Checksfield (Chairperson)
- Marian Bright (Vice Chair)
- Trudie Seeney (Secretary)
- Vacancy (Membership)
- Kevin Gillard (Treasurer)
- Serena Dolby (Deputy Treasurer)
- Paul Trefusis (Site Maintenance)
- Karen Haysom (Director)
- David Sanderson