



Gnosall allotments & Garden association newsletter

Issue 16

May 2013

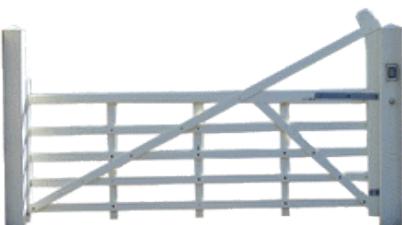
GFest 2013

The allotments site will once again be open for the Open Gardens event on Sunday 7th July between 12am and 6pm. The focus will be on the new allotments but people may wander further and enjoy chatting to those working on their plots. The shed will be open with a display promoting the work of GAGA. On Sunday 14th July we will be having a stall at the farmers market to be held at the Grosvenor Centre. Again we will be promoting GAGA and hoping to attract more members as well as selling any spare plants or produce members may have. Proceeds will be shared between GAGA and GFest 2013 local projects. Please contact a member of the committee if you can donate plants or produce for the event.

Tidy Allotments

As the growing season gets underway (slowly due to the weather!) allotments are being dug, prepared and planted and are beginning to look good. Volunteers have been working on the shed area to tidy it up and on May 19th will have painted the container and replaced the gate. It would be good if this could continue with everyone disposing of waste products (weeds, diseased growth, wood, carpet, plastic etc.) in a responsible way. Please remember this is part of all Allotment holder's tenancy agreements. The Parish Council are re-letting any empty allotments and have plans to improve the area but if you have any concerns about the condition of any plot please speak to them.

Gate



To improve security and to discourage the general public entering the allotments please make sure that you close the main gate every time you use it.

In an effort to increase security we plan to put a sign on the side gate from the board walk saying 'Allotments Only'

Need more growing space?

We have been asked if anyone would like to use the space in a garden in Greenfields area. If you are interested, please contact a committee member to get more details.

Want good advice on gardening.

Why not listen to Gardeners Question Time (GQT) on Radio 4 ..Friday 3 pm, & repeated on Sunday afternoon at 2 pm. They always visit a different place every week and have plenty of good advice.

Companion planting guide

Thank you to our member Janet Wisemen for drawing our attention to an established form of planting that combines plants for better yield, insect control, saving space and more!

Creating plant communities for mutual benefit is an old gardening tradition.

Companion planting isn't just about pest control. By combining plants carefully, plants can help each other in terms of providing nutrients in the soil, offering protection from wind or sun and also, by attracting beneficial pests or acting as a decoy for harmful ones.



Some examples of Plant combinations

- Grow French marigolds among tomatoes. Marigolds emit a strong odour that will repel greenfly and blackfly.
- Grow sage with carrots or plants in the cabbage family to ward off pests. Both have strong scents that drive away each other's pests.
- Plant nasturtium with cabbages - they're a magnet for caterpillars that will then leave the cabbages alone.
- Garlic planted among roses will ward off aphids.
- Plant carrots and leeks together on the allotment or vegetable patch to protect against a number of pests. Leeks repel carrot fly and carrots repel onion fly and leek moth.

Make sure companion plants are planted at the same time as your edible crops to prevent pests from getting a foothold.

For further information please refer to the following sources

http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/organic_companionplanting1.shtml

http://www.the-gardeners-calendar.co.uk/Companion_Planting/

Companion planting table

http://www.the-gardeners-calendar.co.uk/Companion_Planting/companiontables.asp

Books: Companion Planting either by Brenda Little £5.65 Amazon.co.uk or Bob Flowerdew £9.99 at the RHS

Reinstating a Gnosall Village Produce Show

Part of GAGA's remit is to build a gardening community within Gnosall. Going back some years our Association held a successful annual village produce show for a number of years, which attracted a lot of exhibitors and visitors on the day.

The traditional village produce show has typically classes for seasonal vegetables and produce, flowers, cakes, and handicraft, and involves all age groups. But in reinstating a *Gnosall Village Produce Show* we are of the opinion we would most likely need to make a start with a limited range.

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We do have access to the previous Trophies for the various classes of produce but such a show needs a professional approach and commitment. Hence we need to know the level of interest and support we can get from our members and others within Gnosall in order to reinstate a *Gnosall Village Produce Show*.

If you agree it is a good idea to reinstate a *Gnosall Village Produce Show* would you please contact our Chairman Tony Barrow on 01785 824211 and let him your answers to the following questions? Do you have an interest in contributing to a reinstated Gnosall Village Produce Show in any of the following roles?

- a) In an advisory role on the Show committee?
- b) A exhibitor
- c) A visitor?
- d) A Judge

What to do in June

Cultivating

As with May, we really need to keep on top of the weeds. Hoeing them off as small seedlings will make the job far easier than waiting for them to grow and send their roots down. Hoeing is best done on a dry day so that the weeds do not have a chance to recover. Don't forget to sharpen your hoe before you start and frequently as you use it. Keeping a small sharpening stone or file in your pocket will make this more convenient. Continue thinning out your carrots, parsnips, beetroot etc. As I said above, later carrot thinnings can provide a tender and tasty addition to a meal. Water when required. Your best measuring instrument for water is your finger. If the top of the soil looks dry, insert your finger into the soil. If it's dry at the tip, then you need to water.

Don't just sprinkle a few drops on the surface, it probably won't penetrate and do any good. Far better to give a good soaking less frequently that will get to the roots of your crops.

In very dry weather, keeping the surface friable by hoeing will help keep the water from getting to the surface by capillary action and then evaporating away. It also helps water soak in when you do get some rain.

Planting

You should be able to plant out brassicas now. Broccoli and calabrese, Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage.

If you have started beans in pots, both runner and French these can go into the outside too. Leeks may well be ready to move to their final position. Ideally they want to be about pencil thickness. Don't follow the old guidance to trim the leaves and roots when transplanting leeks. It has been proven to be of no benefit and is counter-productive. Celery can go out now as well.

Outdoor tomatoes can go to their final position now. When moving plants from greenhouse to outdoors it is a good idea to condition them to the move. Take them out in the day and put them back at night for a few days or move from greenhouse to coldframe. This avoids shocking the plant by a sudden and drastic change in climate.

Sowing

There is a lot to sow this month and with many crops you can sow one set and then a few weeks later re-sow to give you a succession of fresh vegetables at the peak of perfection. In dry weather it is a good idea to soak your seed drill before sowing and then just water with a fine rose after.

G.A.G.A. Committee members (and plot numbers)

Tony Barrow.....L	Chairman
Lynn Whittick..... 30	Secretary
Susan Howlett.....A	Treasurer
Bob Colman..... J	
Phil Barnes..... 55	
Frank Insull.....10	
Ray Woodward.... 11	
Ann Newman..... 12D	
Betty Clifford.....53B	
Ray Finney.....32	
Simon Whittick....29	

The committee is keen to help all members and keep you informed on what is happening. If you have any questions, please do contact us at the shed or by phone/e-mail.

Shed News

Now we are in the peak growing season the shed is open every weekend except carnival weekend (June 15th).

We still have good stocks of most items except mesh and netting. Our current supplier no longer stocks all these items and we are seeking alternatives from them or an alternative supplier. Please bear with us while we sort this out.

Saturday	18 May 2013
Sunday	26 May 2013
Sunday	02 June 2013
Sunday	09 June 2013
Saturday	22 June 2013

	Size	Price
Multipurpose Compost	60 ltr	£4.00
Humax Growbags	4 plant	£2.60
Ericaceous compost	70 ltr	£5.00
Multigrow peat free compost	70 ltr	£4.50
FERTILISERS		
Vermiculite	5ltr	£1.50
Fish, Blood, Bone	3 Kg	£1.75
Growmore	3 Kg	£2.50
Potato	3 Kg	£2.80
Rose	3 Kg	£2.00
Spring & Summer Lawn	3 Kg	£2.40
Lawn-weed, Feed, Moss Kill	3 Kg	£4.00
Super Phosphate	3 Kg	£2.00
Sulphate of Potash	3 Kg	£4.20
Sulphate of Ammonia	3 Kg	£2.00
Epsom Salts	3 Kg	£2.80
Dolomite Lime	3 Kg	£1.10
Pelleted Chicken	4kg	£2.50
SUNDRIES		
Green Twine	Per each	£2.00
Polypropylene twine 280 m	Per each	£2.50
Canes	5ft each	£0.20
Canes	5ft each	£0.35
Canes	8ft each	£0.50
Mouse trap	each	£1.50
Plastic Labels	x50	£0.60
Bird netting 6 m wide	1 metre	£1.80
Fleece - 2 mtr. Wide	1 metre	£0.30
Ultra fine insect mesh 3 m wide~##	1 metre	£2.00
5" round pots	x 5	£0.20
4" round pots	x 8	£0.20
Hanging basket liners 14"	Per each	£2.20
Hanging basket liners 12"	Per each	£1.60
OTHER CHEMICALS		
Weedol	Sachet	£1.50
Bayer fungicide	Per 6	£8.80
Doff Slug killer pellets	350g	£1.40
Cabbage collars	30 pack	£1.80
Phostrogen	40 cans	£3.50
Tomorite	1 litre	£4.00
SB invigorator	250ml	£9.00

currently out of stock

We have a number of compost trays and 2 compost bins at the shed looking for a good home!

