



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 30

May 2016

ALLOTMENT UPDATE

Allotments Works Update

As you probably know, and certainly if you have an allotment, work started at the far end of the allotments to clear the site ready to improve the allotments. Gnosall Parish Council informs us that the contractor found that there was an awful lot of rubbish in the abandoned allotments, including some asbestos. One of the fires he lit, to burn the old wood and fencing, unfortunately, spread to an old rotten tree. The fire brigade put it out. We are informed that to continue with the work as planned will now be beyond the original budget and the project is on hold. We understand that the tidy up work will be completed. We do not know when the remaining work will be completed.

Roadway to the car park

The repair work to the road way from the A518 to the car park has been done by Severn Trent Water. This is not the work on the roadway that Gnosall Parish Council are planning.

EVENTS

A special date for your diary.

We have arranged an illustrated talk by

Mike Herbert, Director at Trentham on the topic of *"Restoration and Regeneration of Trentham Estate"*

It will be at the Grosvenor Centre on **Thurs 26th**

May 2016 starting at 7.30 pm.

All profits will be donated to the Gnosall Branch of Macmillan Cancer Research. We hope that you will come and bring friends as it is sure to be an enjoyable evening. There will be coffee or tea in the interval.

Tickets are only £5 per person, available from GAGA committee members. If you do not know any of the committee, you can phone Bob Colman on 01785 823955 or email bob.colman@btinternet.com

Gnosall Carnival Saturday June 18th.

We will be running the plant stall again at the carnival. We are looking for donations of plants for the stall from our members. While you are potting up seedlings, plant a few more for the carnival stall. Anything goes, but we would especially like bedding plants, herbs and unusual herbaceous plants

SHED

The shed is now open most Sunday mornings (except for Bank Holiday weekends). It is fully stocked with fertilizers, canes, netting etc. You can find a full list and prices on the website or just drop in between 10 and 12 on Sunday. You can now spend your £1 shed voucher for the 2016/2017 season.

Open	May 8 th	June 5 th
	May 15 th	June 12 th
	May 22 nd	June 26 th

Our prices are cheaper than most retailers and we are in Gnosall!

OUR WEBSITE

Have you visited our website yet?

GAGA has a website with information on events, shed prices and opening times and other helpful information.

Why not have a look at what we offer if you are up to speed with computer technology (if not- get your children or grandchildren to show you!) Visit <http://gnosallallotments.org.uk> or (if you use a smart phone or tablet, scan the QR code below.



NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

We are now members of the National Allotment Society. Our advice on what to do in May is taken from their most informative website.

www.nsalg.org.uk

As members we can also get advice on a wide range of subjects and discount at QVS, Norfolk Greenhouses and several other suppliers. Their leaflet on "Flooding on the allotment" may be useful to some members.

http://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/A5_Flooding_on_the_allotment_LR.pdf

WHAT TO DO IN MAY

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. Savoy cabbage, winter cabbage, endive, kale and sprouting broccoli can all be sown in the open ground now, ready to be planted out next month.

Continue making direct successional sowings in the soil of lettuce, radish, spinach, turnips (switch to kohl rabi when the weather becomes hot) beetroot for summer use and also maincrop beetroot to put into store at the end of summer. While the leeks, Brussels sprouts and French beans sown last month under glass, can now be planted out.

This is also your last opportunity to sow peas. **General** 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.

Keep hoeing between crops to control weeds and also create a "dust mulch" to conserve precious soil moisture. Try to water in the cool of the evening if possible using a watering can to direct the water around the root area of the crops.

If you can get it, put some straw underneath the developing strawberry fruits to keep them off the soil and try to avoid watering overhead to reduce any problems with mildew.

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, including a fatty acid soap to spray on the plants.

Growveg

There is some great advice and videos about growing veg on the GrowVeg website. Go to growveg.co.uk. You'll also find them on YouTube by search for growveg.

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

Ray Finney.....	A	Chairman
Simon Whittick..	51	Secretary
Lynn Whittick....	51	
Susan Howlett....		Treasurer
Phil Barnes.....	55	
Bob Colman.....	J	
Neil Fletcher.....		
Frank Insull.....	10	
Ann Newman.....	B/D	
Ray Woodward..	11	

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 phone/e-mail.

*Emergency information for Allotments area
In the event of an accident when calling for an ambulance / emergency services use the post code ST20 0EZ and the NGR: SJ 82733 20660.*

RECIPE

A seasonal recipe for Rhubarb Ice cream

The lightest, fluffiest ice cream block made with baked and caramelised summer rhubarb. You can substitute with plums.

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

500g rhubarb cut into 2cm pieces
1 heaped tbsp brown sugar
2 tbsp shelled, skinned hazelnuts
2 tbsp blanched almonds
1 heaped tbsp light brown sugar
3 eggs, separated
4 tbsp caster sugar
300ml double cream

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas mark 4. Line a 1kg loaf tin with clingfilm and set to one side. Line two shallow baking trays with baking parchment. Put the rhubarb on one and sprinkle with granulated sugar, and put the nuts on the other.

Bake in the oven until the rhubarb is soft and sticky and the nuts golden brown (this will take 15-20 minutes).

Remove from the oven and allow to become completely cool.

Grind the nuts to a powder.

In a large bowl, whisk the egg yolks with the caster sugar until they increase in volume and become pale and fluffy.

Whip the cream in a separate bowl until thick, then stir it into the egg yolks until the mixture is smooth. Fold in the nuts.

In a third bowl, whisk the egg whites to a stiff foam, using a clean whisk, and then fold carefully them into the egg-yolk mixture with a large metal spoon. Fold in the rhubarb, perhaps leaving out a few pieces to decorate. Pour the mixture into the loaf tin.

Cover with more clingfilm and freeze until solid.

(From The Telegraph-

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/recipes/10938592/Cooking-on-holiday-Rhubarb-nougat-ice-cream-recipe.html>)

