



Andover Allotments Newsletter Spring Edition

Firstly, Happy New Year! 2020 is well underway & it is a welcome sight to see plants beginning to show signs of life again and hearing the birds chirping away. Spring is most certainly in the air (as is the pollen, my hay fever has been terrible!!) I hope you enjoy my terrible gardening puns as much as I have enjoyed finding them on the web.... Lettuce do this !!!!

ARE YOU SHEAR-IOUS ?

Firstly, I would like to make you all aware that having probed for some information regarding The Gardening Fair which was held on Andover High Street last May, we have sadly been told that the lady who was organising it is no longer working for that arm of Test Valley Borough Council and we believe the Fair will not be going ahead. Which is a real shame as I know it went down a storm in 2019 and we absolutely loved doing it with the help of some of our lovely tenants. If this changes and we hear differently we will inform you all. But that is the bad bit out of the way now so let's move onto the good stuff.

MULCHOS GRASSIOUS

One of our fantastic tenants who is based on Admirals Way has informed us of a wonderful company which supply Mulch and are a local farm, so supporting a local business! The Farm is 'Apsley Farm'. They use biodegradable matter & in the process sustainable energy is produced...! Win win right?! The tenant who made us aware of this fantastic company, has bought mulch and was so impressed with it, he let us know so we could share the love with everyone else. It may be worth getting your heads together at your various sites & possibly sharing a delivery. I know everyone goes wild for a bit of mulch so I hope this information is useful to you!

Their website is www.apsleyfarms.co.uk and their contact number is: 01264 353172

LAWN LIVE THE SCARECROW COMPETITION!

I know, I know... May half term is a while away, however, I want to get in there early and remind you all that the legendary Scarecrow Competition is taking place in 2020. Half Term for the schools in Andover is week commencing Monday 25th May 2020, so we will be judging on Wednesday 3rd June 2020. I hope we have beautiful sunshine beaming down on us for judging – but also for you all whilst you create your lovely scarecrows!

We do require you to send us your site, name, plot number & the names of your little helpers so we can enter you into the competition and to ensure nobody is forgotten during the judging process.

An awards ceremony is likely to be hosted towards the end of June and a date will be given to all of our wonderful competition participants. We can all have a bit of fun and celebrate together the wonderful efforts that you as the Allotment Holders make during this competition. It really is legendary.





PRO-SEED WITH CAUTION

Andover Household Waste Recycling Centre will now require ALL who use this service to have their vehicle registered prior to using the facility in order to avoid a penalty charge. This is to stop people from outside our County using our waste disposal facilities, so it is a positive change which will benefit us all however requires some administration on your part.

This is important we make you all aware so nobody starts to use the allotments as a dumping ground which is unacceptable.

Please visit www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/vehicle-registration to register your vehicle to be able to access the waste recycling centre on Walworth Industrial Estate.

Alternatively, for the less tech-minded of us (me included), you can call 0300 555 1389 to register over the telephone.

DON'T BEET AROUND THE BUSH

Site inspection season approaches and I want to personally ask you all to ensure you are fully cultivating your allotment plots FULLY this year! We spend a lot of time having to chase up people who do not look after their allotment plots, which is frustrating not only for us but also for the allotment holders who do take care of their patch. I know that 95% of you are absolutely amazing and take such pride in your allotment plots that you don't even need to read this. I am trying to reach the 'non-cultivators' amongst you, yes.... You know who you are! I am appealing to your better nature. Please take care of your allotment plot this year.... There is a huge demand for allotments and to have an allotment plot and not use it puts others at a disadvantage.

I am sure you have all noticed our zero-tolerance approach to people who do not tend to their allotment plots and this shall continue. Whilst we are very understanding of people's personal circumstances changing, we must maintain our stance that laziness is not a good enough reason for people to leave their plots to rack and ruin.

We will be managing this throughout 2020 and we hope to work with you all to improve the sites and make them a more enjoyable place to be.

LAWN AND ORDER

Please can EVERYONE who composts be mindful in this new growing season to ensure their composting areas are kept in the appropriate manner to avoid vermin. The compost MUST be penned in so rats cannot get in and nest. The compost must be covered also.

This is non-negotiable – we spend a lot of time and money each year on vermin control and call outs and things have to change. We will be doing regular site visits and all composting will be inspected & if we believe your composting area to be of a potential risk, we will send a letter to you requesting immediate action be taken to fix the issue. As always, any call outs for vermin issues created by a plot which is being managed poorly will be charged back to the tenant. Please work with us on this for 2020. Thanks in Advance!





Please note the next Allotment Committee meeting is being held on Wednesday 19th February 2020 at Andover Town Council Offices.

THATCH ALL FOLKS, AUF-WEED-ERSEHEN !!!