



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

## Autumn leaves falling .....



### Vegetable Harvest

With the summer crops over some of your winter crops will be ready to taste. You could be harvesting broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbages, cauliflower, leeks, squashes and pumpkins, parsnip, swede and turnips.

This list is only a snapshot of some of the vegetables you could be harvesting now.

Of course this depends on how well you have cultivated your allotment plot this year.

## VEGETABLES

Not many crops can be sown outside at this time of year. However broad beans are hardy enough to sow now and give you an early crop next year. By sowing now you avoid getting too much blackfly on your crop. A good variety to use that will stand the winter well is Aquadulce. Also by sowing early and getting an early crop you are able to use the space for another crop once the broad beans have finished.

## FRUIT

- Plant rhubarb crowns
- Now is a good time to be planting summer fruiting raspberries, all currants and gooseberries. You will need to prepare the ground well incorporating lots of compost to help retain the moisture.
- If you haven't already done so cut down all the canes that have fruited on the summer fruiting raspberries and leave the best canes that haven't fruited for next year's crop.
- Fix grease bands to apple and pear trees to prevent pests such as the winter moth from crawling up the trunks to lay their eggs.



## GENERAL TASKS

- If you haven't already done so lift any potatoes you have in the ground. Make sure they are dry before storing.
- Earth up celery to blanch the stems making them more tender.
- As the ground becomes vacant it should be dug over and either manure or your own compost added. Manure that is added now will be broken down by planting time next Spring.

See information attached to this newsletter.

- Remove yellowing leaves from brassicas. These are not useful to the plant and will encourage botrytis to develop.
- If you haven't already done so, now is the ideal time to build yourself a compost container. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just something to hold all the green waste from your plot and anything else you might want to add.



## GENERAL NEWS FROM THE ALLOTMENTS

The allotment liason group have met twice this year and we have had 2 very successful meetings. The Liason Group is made up all Site Reps, 2 Councillors and 2 Town Council Officers. In the meetings the discussions have been very frank and we have had some very good outcomes.

Firstly I need to bring to your attention a very important issue. On our inspections we have been a bit lenient with allotment holders on the state of the plots. **Well no more !** The site reps decided it was time to get tough. We will now give you 1 warning letter about your plot with 2 weeks to do something about it, if you do nothing and you have no valid reason your tenancy agreement will be terminated. One of the reasons for this action is the length of our waiting list. At the time of this newsletter it is 108. So if you do want to keep your allotment make sure you are prepared to do the work on it.

At the meeting the site reps were a bit dismayed that allotment holders were not talking to them but coming directly to me. Please talk to your site rep as he should always be your first point of contact.

Another point was raised regarding the paths around the allotments. Plot holders should be aware that it is **your** responsibility to cut the paths around your plot. This you should agree with your neighbours about who is going to cut what.

We also discussed the competitions that were run this year and it has been decided to run them all again next year.

Once again I have to bring it to your attention about gates being left open on all sites. These gates are for the benefit of you, the allotment holder. Please shut the gate if you are the last person to leave.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Make a note in your diary. The Christmas lights in Farnham will be Switched On, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 6 pm by the Young Person of the Year with the Mayors help.

There is a psychological distinction between cutting back and pruning. Pruning is supposed to be for the welfare of the tree or shrub, cutting back is for the satisfaction of the cutter .

Christopher Lloyd  
The Well Tempered Garden (1973)

## WEEDKILLER IN MANURE

You will have no doubt seen or read about this massive problem. I know some of you have also suffered the results of this on your allotment plot. I have enclosed an information leaflet from the RHS. This gives you an idea of the problem the scale of the problem is nationwide.



Have you visited the new  
Farnham Town Council website.  
If not have a look and it will give you  
lots of information about all sorts of things

visit [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk)

Also don't forget you have your own dedicated website  
where you can put on your own experiences down on  
your plot .Share with others your successes and failures  
What works for you and doesn't work for you



Visit [www.farnhamallotments.co.uk](http://www.farnhamallotments.co.uk)

In July 2009 we are organising a Gardening Festival in Farnham which will start in early July when Farnham in Bloom will be judged. You will also be able to take a guided walk along the judges route to see exactly what they have seen. You will then be able to judge for yourself. The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July will be the Secret Gardens of Farnham competition ending on the following Sunday with a Garden Open Scheme in Farnham. The 3<sup>rd</sup> week will see either an organised trip to a garden of note or a lecture. Then the culmination of the month will be held at the Maltings on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. This will include our allotment show and a question time panel. Also lots other things going on during the day. For the allotment holders only, after prize giving we will retire to the greenhouse area in West Street and enjoy a BBQ. This is still all to be confirmed but is in the early planning stages.

Many of you will know that I have an office down at our Depot right next to West Street Allotments. Due to my expanding team, I mean in number not waistline, we have removed the office to give the team more space at refreshment times.

I have now moved to an office in South Street with all the other office staff, but don't worry I will still be out and about.

If you do need to contact me by phone the number is 01252 7126678 ext 195.

You can leave a message on the voice mail if I am not at my desk. But please talk to your Site Rep before me if you are having problems, because he will then talk to me.

Kevin Taitt

Grounds and Services Manager

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