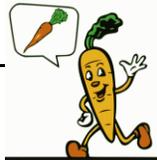




Northfields Allotments Newsletter



CLUB COMMITTEE

Angie Stray
Honorary Chairman Plot 31B

Judy Wragg
Honorary Secretary Plot 20/21AB
Spring is
John Richardson
Honorary Treasurer Plot 10A

Derek Cosby
Plot Manager Plot 22b

Committee Members
Sandy O'Donnell Plot 11Ai
Bill Cooper Plot 17A
David Nice Plot 4A/5
David Murtagh Plot 20/21C

Contacts Details:
Emergency Numbers:
Derek Cosby 07721778727 or 535435
John Richardson 534166

Correspondence to the secretary
Email: hunstantonallotments@gmail.com
Telephone 07470 273366
Green Post Boxes outside main gate or at Judy's plot 20/21AB

Hello everyone.

Spring is with us despite this recent cold snap. I am sure you are all busy chitting your potatoes and getting your early crops ready.

I would like to thank everybody who has given us support just recently, your emails have been very reassuring and greatly received.

We have a few news items for you this month with some dates and requests, so it is good to kick the newsletter back in.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Angie and the committee

Rent Day

Rent day is on the morning of 9th April. A letter has been sent out to all of you explaining how the rent is calculated and how best to pay it. We hope to see lots of you at the club house on Saturday. Also at this time we will be taking the opportunity to ask you to check the contact details we hold for you and advise us of any changes so that our records are up to date. If you have any queries about how to pay the rent please email John on the club email address at the top of this newsletter.

Working Party

We are holding a working party on the same morning as the rent day Saturday 9th April starting 9.30, so that you only have to come out once. Many hands make light work so hopefully we will be able to address the increasing number of potholes in the road, tackle the weeds and generally tidy up.

Open Day

As we have not been able to have an open day for two years and we know many people have missed this, we are optimistically arranging one for the 7th August.

We will need an army of volunteers for both the day and for preparation. Some new and fresh ideas would be really exciting, so we would really appreciate your ideas for different stalls, activities etc.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are willing to help.

We will also need donations, we will be looking for raffle prizes, tombola stall items, items for a homemade stall, cakes for the refreshment area etc We will send a list out soon to clarify what we will need and when we will need it.

We will be having a plant stall and Anne is already working hard at preparing this. She is in need of a variety of clean pots 3 inch up to a litre in size and any red bread crates or supermarket crates plus off cuts of plastic to line these with. Let me know and I will arrange for somebody to pick them up from you or you can give them to Derek to pass onto Anne. Also if you have any plants or cuttings which could be donated for this stall please let us know. Strawberry plants always sell well so if you have too many runners don't throw them away, pass them on to us, please.

Great Crested Newts

We are really excited to tell you that we have a few Great Crested Newts on the site. These are a protected species due to their decline and we are proud to be able to register the allotment site for these newts. If you see any on your plot please let David Nice on Plot 4a and 5 know, so that he can keep a track of how many we have.



Gate Code

The code to the gate is always changed at this time of year. You will receive the new gate code when you pay your rent. This will then come into effect on Saturday the 30th April. We do this once or twice a year just as a matter of extra security.



Rodent Control

We will never eradicate the rats completely on the site but we are definitely getting fewer reports. However, the true test will be in the Autumn when we all have good harvests for them to forage on. So please keep up the good work of not encouraging them on your plots

Tidy up

As you know we have had lots of asbestos removed from the site, we have also collected up numerous spare and unused tyres and arranged for their disposal and we helped you dispose of old carpet which was providing five star accommodation for the rats. These have all cost money for us to remove them.

If you have any tyres or carpet on your plot and in the future you decide you do not want them any more, it is now your responsibility to dispose of anything you no longer require. Please do not leave these items on communal parts of the site.

Fly-tipping

The lane leading up to our gate has recently been used for fly-tipping. If you see anyone engaging in such activity please report them immediately to either the council or the police.

Please Remember

Please remember to tumble the gate lock every time you go through the gate and also remember to keep you speed down whilst driving through the site.

Security Cameras

We are looking into the viability of security cameras.

Does anyone know of affordable cameras which are run on solar power and do not require wifi but have a good memory capacity?



Gardening Tips for April **RHS monthly gardening tips and advice for April:**

1. Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seeds outdoors.
2. Protect soft fruit blossoms from late frosts.
3. Tie in climbing and rambling roses.
4. Keep weeds under control.
5. Start to feed citrus plants.
6. Increase water given to household plants.
7. Feed hungry shrubs and roses
8. Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
9. Prune fig trees.
10. Divide bamboo and water lilies.

Easter Recipe

From the BBC Food website



Easter Rocky Road

Ingredients

- 175g/6oz dark chocolate, broken into pieces
- 125g/4½oz milk chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 75g/2¾oz unsalted butter, diced
- 160g/5¾oz sugar-coated mini chocolate eggs
- 200g/7oz digestives or rich tea biscuits, broken into pieces
- 75g/2¾oz mini marshmallows
- 50g/1¾oz hazelnuts, roughly chopped
- 75g/2¾oz raisins

Method

1. Line a 20x30cm/8x12in baking tin with baking paper.
2. Place the dark and milk chocolate pieces in a large heatproof bowl and add the golden syrup and butter. Set the bowl over a pan of barely simmering water but do not allow the bottom of the bowl to touch the water. Stir from time to time until the butter and chocolate are melted and the mixture is smooth. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for 5 minutes – if this is too hot the marshmallows will melt.

3. Cut the chocolate mini eggs in half (leaving a few whole) and set aside one third of the eggs, including the whole ones for decorating. Gently fold in the chocolate eggs, biscuits, marshmallows, nuts and raisins into the chocolate mixture and mix to combine. Spoon into the prepared tin and spread level using the back of the spoon. Scatter with the reserved whole and halved mini eggs.
4. Refrigerating for at least 1 hour, or until completely firm. Cut into bars to serve.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter and happy gardening.

Take care Judy