

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018



Your rent is due on 1st October and invoices have now been sent out. Tenants with an email address on file should check their inbox. All others have been sent by Royal Mail.

If you have not received your invoice then please be sure to contact your membership secretary as soon as possible.

If you wish to give up your allotment and not pay for another year then relinquishment forms have been included with your invoice

Plots should be relinquished by 30th September.

Getting involved

As you may have heard at the AGM, we are always looking for new volunteers to help with the task of running our sites. If you can spare the odd hour now and then to help the working parties keep sites in order and mend anything that breaks, please let us know. We also need people who can drive trailers to the tip or clean toilets, plumbers, service engineers.... any skills can be used but even if you think you have none, as a gardener you know how to dig, cut and carry. Join in if you can and help keep the rents down and standards high. Free gloves in winter!

The committee is always interested in anyone with organisational skills. We don't want the same small group to manage WAM forever - it has to have new faces from a variety of sites to keep it energetic and responsive. If you, or someone you can recommend, would like to know more about being, for example, secretary, then contact secretary@wamplots.org.uk or 07936 557874 for a confidential discussion on what is involved.

I Dig, You Dig, He Digs, She Digs, It Digs, We Dig, They Dig.
It's not a beautiful poem, but it's very deep.

Dogs on allotment sites

Many tenants enjoy bringing their four-legged friend(s) to the plot with them. There is nothing wrong with your canine companions being on the site and helping with your digging, but please remember that dogs should be kept on leads and under control at all times.

Allotment sites are filled with hazards that a dog simply will not appreciate so this is as much to keep them safe as it is to ensure that our two-legged visitors are. The entrance gates on all sites have PSPO notices from Worthing Borough Council regarding dogs which must be adhered to. There are consequences if they are not.

Paths, Drives and Communal areas



Allotment sites are by their nature a little tatty around the edges, but we should do our bit to ensure they don't get too untidy. All tenants are responsible for maintaining the communal paths which run between plots, neighbours sharing the load. They should also maintain the edge of the plot where it borders onto grass drives and communal areas (including car parks and roads).

When tidying up remember to check that fruiting canes and tree branches are cut back to within the boundary of your plot. If your neighbour is less able, don't just jump in and start hacking, but do ask them if they would like some help.

Keeping your plot healthy

Much of the work to be done on the allotment plot now and into October is about tidying, clearing and composting. Ripen Pumpkins and Squash by removing leaves to let the sun get to the fruit. You've about a month left before a frost could occur, so it's your last chance. Don't forget they still need feed and a water if it's dry.

When you have harvested crops, clear away the old foliage and vegetation, put it straight in to your compost bin. Leaving it to rot in the soil is never a good habit as it can spread disease.

Don't forget to turn your heap regularly to aid composting and deter pests. Water if it's dry, add card/paper/straw if it's wet.

Weeds are still growing, especially where you've already cleared crops. Sowing green manures or mulching with clippings or compost will help keep them at bay by filling up the empty ground left by the harvest and tidy up.

You can make a start on your winter digging now. Do a small amount very often, the weather is still pleasant enough to take breaks for a brew if you want to make a morning or afternoon of it.

More tips can be found in the Getting Started section of the WAM website - Wamplots.org.uk

Going to the tip?

Winter hours

1st October 2018 – 31st March 2019

9am – 4pm every day except Thursdays when it is closed

Pest and disease watch

Vegetables

Cabbage aphids

Cabbage white

butterflies

Carrot fly

Grey mould

Leek moth caterpillars

Pigeons

Potato blight

Powdery mildew

Slugs and snails

Tomato blight

Tomato blossom end rot

Fruit

Bitter pit

Brown rot

Canker

Pear rust

Powdery mildew

Raspberry beetle

Scab

Silver leaf

Winter moths

The AGM presentation will soon be available on our website (wamplots.org.uk) and in the WAGA shops.

Contributions and responses to this newsletter should be emailed to:

newsletter@wamplots.org.uk