
WSAA Newsletter

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May 2024



Hello May!

May is here and we hope you're bedding into the season well! It's that time of year when we're all busy mucking in and doing the necessary to make our gardens grow.

With longer days and anticipating warmer temperatures, our allotments are starting to buzz with activity and we hope you're feeling as excited as we are about what this season on our plots might bring.

If this is your first year with WSAA, we hope you're getting a good start on your plots, but the committee and your neighbours are here if you need any help or advice. We all remember what it can be like when you're just starting - don't hesitate to reach out!

We had really productive work parties in March and April, working on our hedges, bolstering our boundaries and assisting with rubbish collection.

Thanks to all the volunteers who help to make our work parties a success and chip in to keep on top of all the jobs around the site.

There's lots to read about in this edition, but we'd like to highlight the call out for volunteers and community support - we have some great plans on the books but we need your help to get them off the ground and make them a success. Check out the opportunities to lend a hand and let us know if you can pitch in.

The Committee

Dates to remember:

Next Work Party
Sun, 19 May

June Work Party
Sat, 29 June

July Work Party
Sun, 21 July

Annual Show
Sat, 14 September

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Inspections Guidance

It's May already and inspections will be taking place this month. Plots are inspected based on the 4 criteria listed below. Use this guidance to help you maintain your plots within our standards.

Cultivation

By late spring we expect a minimum of 50% of the ground area of a plot to be in cultivation, either with vegetables growing, or with ground obviously prepared for growing over the Summer season. Some growing areas may be deliberately left fallow, or covered. Ponds will not be counted towards cultivated area, nor will any space set aside for entertaining or storage.

In the first year we expect a new plotholder to get at least 30% of their plot into cultivation and up to 50% the year after.

Health and Safety

There should be nothing on the plot which would present a potential hazard or risk to any person on the site who uses the paths around the plot. There should also be no significant hazards on the plot that might cause a risk to the plotholder themselves, such as broken glass, or dangerous structures. Nor environmental damage.

There should be no significant collections of materials such as wood, metal, plastic, concrete etc on the plot.

Structures

The only structures which can be put on a plot are a shed for the storage of tools, greenhouses or polytunnels, fruit cages and compost heaps. All sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels need written permission from the committee before construction begins. Decked areas, pergolas, treehouses, climbing frames etc are not permitted. A few chairs and a table are acceptable.

Paths

There should be a path of at least 50cm width between plots. The path should be fully accessible for the whole length and safe to walk along - i.e. relatively smooth and without tools, or other material blocking them. For historic reasons some plots do not have paths separating them and this will not be inspected.

Maintenance Updates



Work Party

Our next work party is Sunday, the 19th of May. As usual, we'll meet at 10am at the Trading Hut.



Water Conservation

The water is on but use it with care! Please be mindful of your water usage. Don't leave taps running unattended with or without hoses attached.



Plot Signs

The committee is working on making stakes with plot numbers and will arrange for them to be installed on plots without signs in the coming weeks.

Calling All Volunteers!

WSAA needs your help! As a volunteer run allotments association, we need you, our members, to help make our site a success. Our work parties are important, but opportunities to get involved aren't limited to physical labour. There are plenty of ways you can volunteer! Here are some things you can help out with:

- Shop - Help us cover our shop hours.
- Admin - Help us get through the paperwork.
- Technical - If you have a bit of technical savvy, let us know! We could use your know how.

Can you lend us a hand? Get in touch: info@whetstonestrayallotments.co.uk



Plant Sale Support

The Community Plot is getting ready for their annual Plant Sale and they need your support. Donate your extra plants and small (seedling size) plant pots - just leave them on the Community Plot table next to the poly tunnel. Any questions, contact Brigid or Les 07957 388 033



Sustainability Initiatives

The call is out for help developing our sustainability initiatives. Thinking of our community, environment and planet, how can we at WSAA do our part to ensure we are taking steps towards creating a more sustainable world? Volunteer to help explore our options with a view to put plans in motion next year.



Annual Show

As announced in April's newsletter, our Annual Show is back this year on Saturday, September 14th, 2024! Drop us a line if you're interested in helping us organise.

Planting in May

In May, you can sow a variety of vegetables in the UK. Here are some options

- **Beans** (Runner, French, Broad): These can be sown directly into the ground or in containers if you have limited space.
 - **Carrots**: Sow carrot seeds directly into the soil, preferably in a sunny spot with well-drained soil.
 - **Beetroot**: Another vegetable that can be sown directly into the ground. Make sure the soil is free from stones to allow the roots to grow straight.
 - **Lettuce**: Perfect for salads, lettuce seeds can be sown directly into the ground or in containers. Choose a variety suitable for the time of year and your preferences.
 - **Radishes**: These grow quickly and can be sown directly into the ground. They're great for adding a peppery crunch to salads.
 - **Spinach**: Sow spinach seeds directly into the ground in a sunny or partially shaded spot. You can start harvesting the leaves when they're young for baby spinach or wait until they're fully mature.
 - **Peas**: Peas can be sown directly into the ground or in containers with supports for them to climb.
 - **Courgettes (Zucchini)**: If you have space, you can sow courgette seeds directly into the ground or in large containers. They're prolific growers, so make sure to give them plenty of space to spread out.
 - **Cucumbers**: If you have a greenhouse or conservatory, you can sow cucumber seeds indoors in pots or trays to transplant outside once the risk of frost has passed.
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Compliance Reminders

Fires are now **only** allowed on the first Wednesday of each month after 4pm.

The latest rubbish collection is done. Please don't leave in the car park or by the gate next to the tin hut until we direct you to do so ahead of the next collection.

Recipe of the Month



Ezzo, the Bride Soup

Spring has arrived but things can get a bit cool, so a warming recipe will still hit the spot. This one is from Julie: The story behind the recipe is that this whole grain soup was invented by a Turkish bride called Ezzo. She was born into a wealthy farming family but fell in love with a dashing, handsome nomad who lived on the harsh and hostile mountains of Eastern Turkey, where there was no Tesco, Asda or Sainsbury's... not even Deliveroo. The winter grain stock was nearing an end, and there wasn't enough of anything to follow a recipe. The blushing, beautiful and resourceful Ezzo dove into the bottoms of grain barrels, and from what she found, made a hearty meal. This recipe has been her legacy to end the winter and welcome the spring amongst the Turkish nomad communities who live on the mountains of Eastern Turkey.

Ingredients

Soup:

- 1 onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- 100 g red lentils
- 50 g crackwheat or bulgur
- 25 g white rice of any sort
- 1 table spoon oil
- 1 table spoon butter

Sauce:

- 2 table spoon oil
- 1 table spoon flour
- 2 table spoon tomatoe paste
- 1 tea spoon dried mint
- 1 tea spoon hot chilli flakes
- 1 tea spoon black pepper
- 1/2 spoon cumin
- 1.5 tea spoon salt.

Method

Melt the butter with the oil, add the chopped onions and fry on low heat until onions are very soft. Add the garlic and fry until garlic softened but not browned or burnt.

Add washed and drained red lentils, cracked wheat and rice and carry on frying few more minutes until all the ingredients well mixed.

Add 750 ml of hot water and boil the lid on for 35 minutes on high heat.

Separately, 1 table spoon flour is fried in 2 table spoon of oil until the flour gives out a nice fragrance. Then add the tomatoe paste, mix and fry while stirring really well for further 2 minutes. Add 200 ml of hot water and let it boil for few minutes.

Finally, add dried mint, chilli flakes, black pepper, salt and cumin and stir very well while it boils another 5 minutes. Add the sauce in to the grain mix in the pot and mix well and boil further 5 minutes. Let the soup rest 20 minutes and ready to serve. Afiyet olsun !!!

Thank you for reading!
