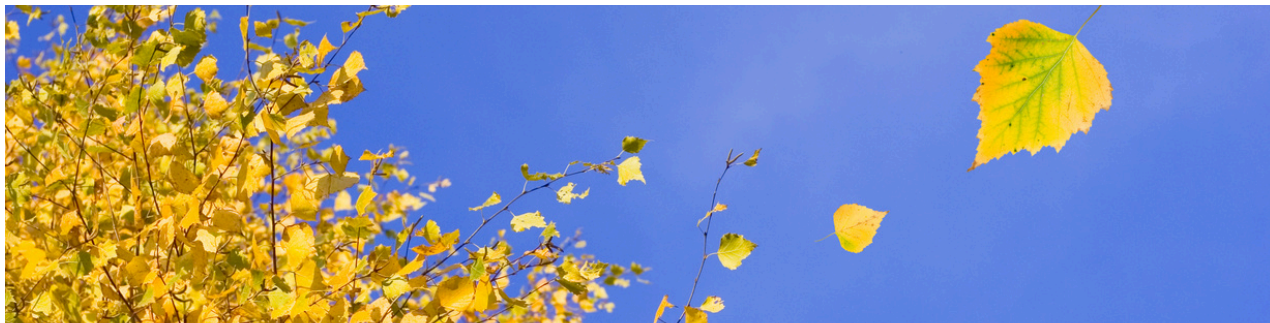

WSAA Newsletter



November 2024



Winter is Coming: November on the Plots

As the days grow shorter and the cool embrace of autumn takes hold, we find ourselves inching closer to the holiday season and the end of another gardening year. November is a time of transition, not just in our gardens but in our routines as we prepare for winter and reflect on the past growing season.

In this month's newsletter, we'll revisit some key points on plot courtesy and compliance. Maintaining a respectful and tidy allotment is essential for fostering a positive and enjoyable community atmosphere. As we gear up for winter, it's a great time to clear away any lingering debris, ensure pathways are safe, and make sure shared spaces are ready for the colder months ahead.

With the start of a new lease year, it's also time to check in on rent collection. By now, all plot holders should have their rent paid and up to date. If you haven't settled your dues yet, please do so promptly to avoid any issues with your lease. Keeping everything in order helps us plan for any improvements or maintenance needed for the allotment grounds and ensures a smooth start to the new year.

November is the perfect time to focus on improving and preparing your plot for the months ahead. It's an opportunity to think beyond just planting winter crops, taking steps to enhance your plot sustainably. From enriching the soil to making eco-friendly upgrades, we've got practical tips to help you keep your allotment thriving while minimizing environmental impact. Stay tuned for ideas on how to make the most of this transitional season, ensuring your plot is ready to flourish in the coming year.

As we near the festive season, let's take some time to appreciate the hard work and community spirit that make our allotment special. Together, we can ensure our plots are ready to weather the winter and spring back to life in the new year.

The Committee

Dates to remember:

Next Work Party
Sun, 17 November

AGM
Sat, 22 March

In this edition:

A Big Thank You

Compliance
Reminders

Maintenance
Updates

November Tips

Recipe of the
Month

Thank You for a Successful October Work Party!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the October work party. Thanks to your hard work and enthusiasm, we made significant progress in clearing some of the plots and even kicked off an exciting new project—our communal composting plot!

Your efforts are helping to create a more sustainable and efficient allotment for everyone. Stay tuned for more updates on the composting plot—there's plenty more to come, and we can't wait to share the next steps with you.

Your dedication and community spirit truly make a difference!



Compliance and Courtesy Reminders



Obstructions, Hazards & Encroaching Be mindful of how your activities and the updates you are making to your allotment and shared paths impact your plot neighbours. Ensure you are not making changes that negatively affect their spaces or the spaces you share with them.



Noise We've noticed an increase in the use of motion-detecting noise makers across the allotments. We understand their purpose is to deter wildlife from eating or damaging your gardens and produce, but they are disrupting the quiet enjoyment of the site. To prevent further disturbance to your fellow plot holders, please remove or turn off these devices.

Please also be reminded that the use of power tools and lawn equipment like mowers and strimmers is prohibited on Sundays after 12pm.

Generally, stay aware of the noise you and your guests cause and the impact it might have on your neighbours.



Fires From now until the end of April, fires are allowed at any time, but please remember to **only burn dry, organic materials** to reduce smoke and toxic fumes.

Improving Allotments Sustainably: A Community Commitment

As we continue to cultivate our allotments, it's essential to consider how our gardening practices impact not only our plots but the broader environment as well. Sustainable gardening is about creating a balance that promotes health for our plants, the soil, and the community. Here are some key practices to help improve our allotments sustainably while fostering a harmonious environment for all.

One of the most crucial aspects of sustainable gardening is avoiding toxic or non-biodegradable materials. Chemicals, such as synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, can leach into the soil and waterways, posing risks to both plant life and local wildlife. Additionally, the use of plastics, carpet, and other non-biodegradable building materials can contribute to long-term pollution in our gardens. Instead, consider sustainable alternatives. For example, use natural materials like wood, stone, or bamboo for construction needs. Opt for biodegradable mulches such as straw or wood chips, and replace plastic sheets with natural fabric covers like jute or hessian. Organic alternatives like compost, leaf mold, and natural pest deterrents not only enhance soil health but also promote a thriving ecosystem within the allotment. These choices help create a more sustainable and eco-friendly gardening environment.



When making improvements to your plot, it's important to remember the potential impact on neighboring plots. Whether you're installing raised beds, setting up a trellis, or creating a composting area, always consider how your activities might affect those around you. Maintaining clear pathways, minimizing noise and disturbance, and avoiding the use of materials that may leach chemicals into the soil can help ensure that everyone in the community can enjoy their gardening experience. Open communication with your neighbors about any planned changes can foster collaboration and mutual respect. Furthermore, embracing biodiversity in our allotments is a fantastic way to improve sustainability. Planting a variety of crops not only supports the health of the soil but also attracts beneficial insects, like pollinators and predatory species that help manage pests. Incorporating native plants can enhance the local ecosystem, providing habitats for wildlife and promoting a balanced environment.

Finally, consider the long-term sustainability of your gardening practices. By focusing on methods that enrich the soil, conserve water, and encourage biodiversity, we can create allotments that are not only productive but also resilient to the challenges posed by climate change.

Together, let's commit to improving our allotments sustainably, ensuring that our gardening practices contribute positively to the environment and foster a sense of community. By being mindful of the materials we use and the impact of our activities on others, we can create a thriving, eco-friendly space that benefits all.





Volunteer for Treasurer: Can we count on you?

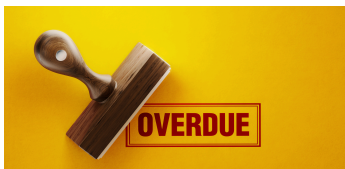
We are currently seeking a volunteer to take on the role of treasurer for our allotment community. This vital position involves managing the financial aspects of our group, including tracking expenses and ensuring our budget is balanced. While experience in bookkeeping or accounting is preferred, it's not essential—what matters most is a willingness to help and a keen eye for detail. If you have the skills or are eager to learn, we'd love to hear from you! Your contribution will be invaluable in keeping our allotment running smoothly.

Every Little Bit Helps!

We truly appreciate all the hard work our members contribute to keeping our allotment community thriving. While work parties are a great way to come together, we know many of you also put in valuable time outside of these events, from tidying communal areas to helping with maintenance. Every bit of effort makes a difference!

If you'd like your independent work to count towards your communal contribution, please check with us beforehand to ensure it qualifies. Once you've completed your task, don't forget to drop us an email to let us know. Your dedication and effort are what make our community so special—thank you for all that you do!

Other Updates



Rent

Rent was due on Oct 1st. If you haven't already, please pay using the details on your invoice. Thanks to all who have made their 24/25 payment.



Work Party

Our next work party is coming up on Sunday, the 17th of November. We'll meet at 10am at the Trading Hut.

Recipe of the Month



Slow Cooked Black Eyed Peas & Greens

Looking for a hearty, comforting dish to warm you up this autumn? This Black-Eyed Peas and Greens recipe is just the thing! This versatile, one-pot wonder is perfect for making use of any hardy greens you have growing—whether it's kale, cavolo nero, collards, or a mix of all three. Packed with flavor and nutrients, it's an easy way to transform your garden harvest into a delicious meal.

The best part? It's a slow cooker recipe! Just toss everything in, let it simmer throughout the day, and enjoy the mouthwatering aromas filling your kitchen. By the time dinner rolls around, you'll have a warm, satisfying dish ready to serve. Enjoy it over rice for a filling meal, or pair it with a crusty bread roll or a slice of cornbread to soak up all the delicious flavors. It's the perfect no-fuss meal for those crisp autumn evenings, offering a comforting bowl of goodness that's as nutritious as it is delicious.

- Prep Time: 15 minutes
- Cook Time: 4 hours

Ingredients

- 1 red bell pepper (diced)
- 1/2 white or yellow onion (diced)
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cans black eyed peas (drained and rinsed)
- 3-4 C vegetable broth
- 1 tbsp old bay seasoning*
- 3 C mustard greens (destemmed and roughly chopped)
- salt and pepper to taste

Method

1. Heat a skillet over medium heat. Once warm, add oil and sautee the garlic, onion, and bell pepper. Stir until onions are soft and everything is fragrant.
2. Transfer the cooked veggies, black eyed peas, veggie broth and seasonings into a crockpot and cover. Turn on high and cook for 3.5 hours, stirring occasionally.
3. At the 3.5 hour mark, add the mustard greens and stir to combine. Cover and cook for the remaining 30 minutes.
4. Once done, stir gently and season to taste.

**Links to recipe and old bay seasoning below*

Do you have a recipe you'd like to share?

Email it to us! We might use it for our Recipe of the Month. We'd like to see a focus on seasonal produce that can be grown or foraged on the allotments.

Thank you for reading!