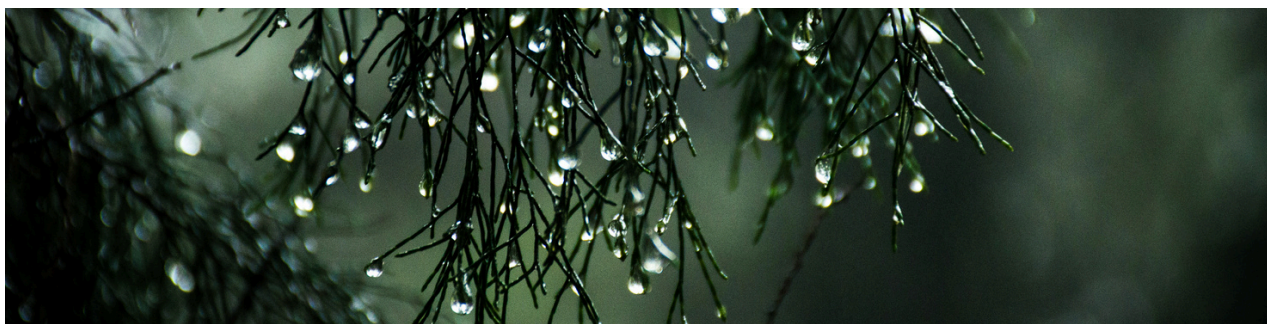


WSAA Newsletter



February 2025



Pruning, Planning, and Plotting: February News

The days are getting longer, and while winter still has its grip, there's plenty happening to prepare for the growing season ahead. Inside this issue, you'll find updates on upcoming events and key dates to keep in mind.

Over on the community plot, exciting plans are in motion, so keep an eye out for ways to get involved.

If you have fruit trees, you might also be interested in the upcoming apple tree pruning workshop—perfect for learning how to keep them in top shape for a good harvest.

And as always, our recipe of the month will bring you a delicious way to make the most of seasonal produce.

Looking ahead, our AGM is coming up in March, so now's the time to start thinking about any topics or ideas you'd like to raise. More details inside on how to prepare and have your say.

Let's make the most of these last weeks of winter—spring is just around the corner!

The Committee

Dates to remember:

Pruning Workshop
Sat, 1 March

AGM
Sat, 22 March

Trading Hut
Reopens
Sat, 29 March

In this edition:

Community Plot
Update

AGM Details

Recipe of the
Month

Apple Tree Pruning Workshop

Join Aidan on **Saturday, 1st March, at 10am** for a hands-on winter pruning workshop in the Communal Orchard. This is a great opportunity to learn how to care for apple trees and encourage healthy growth for the season ahead.

Meet at Field 2, Path 2, Plot 92, and bring secateurs, loppers, or small hand saws if you have them. After the session, we'll gather for light refreshments in the trading hut at 1:30pm.

If you'd like to attend or get involved with orchard care this year, let us know at info@whetstoneallotments.co.uk.



Community Plot Corner

We're busy this winter preparing the Community Plot so it's ready for vulnerable people to return in the spring. Les is hard at work on repairs to the boardwalk and installing new raised beds. If you can lend a hand, he'd love to hear from you: 07957 388033.

2025 is already shaping up to be a busy year! Barnet Council has confirmed they'd like us to continue our outreach work at the Freehold Community Centre, a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to develop community gardening skills or simply get involved.



The North London Hospice has also reached out, asking if we can support people who have recently been bereaved. We look forward to welcoming them when we reopen in early March—weather permitting.

Best wishes,
Brigid & Les

Preparing for the AGM – Have Your Say!

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on **Saturday, 22nd March 2025, at 11:00 am in the Trading Hut**. This is a key event for all members, providing an opportunity to shape the future of our allotment community. Below are the important details and deadlines leading up to the meeting.

Member Proposals – Submit by 28th February

If you have a proposal you'd like to be considered at the AGM, please submit it by **Friday, 28th February 2025** by emailing the committee at info@whetstoneallotments.co.uk. If your proposal involves a project or change, be prepared to work with the committee on its implementation if accepted.

Committee Surgery – 1st March

To ensure everyone has a chance to discuss proposals, a Committee Surgery will be held on **Saturday, 1st March 2025, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm in the Trading Hut**. Committee members will be available for plot holders to bring comments, suggestions, and discuss submitted proposals.

If you would like to attend, please let us know in advance so we can arrange time slots. Walk-ins will be accommodated where possible, but you may need to wait outside until a slot becomes available.

Nominations for Committee Members – Submit by 6th March

We always welcome new committee members! If you would like to get involved, please send your nomination **by Thursday, 6th March 2025**, with confirmation from the person nominated. If you'd like to learn more about the role, feel free to contact us to speak with a current committee member.

AGM Agenda & Voting

A full agenda, member proposals, committee nominations, and proxy vote forms will be sent out by Saturday, 8th March 2025. If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to vote or appoint a proxy, completed forms must be returned by Saturday, 15th March 2025.

We hope to see as many members as possible at this year's AGM—it's an important opportunity to have your say and help shape the way our allotment site is run. See you there!





Join the WSAA Committee – Make a Difference!

Our allotment thrives because of the passionate people who help shape its future. Now, we're looking for new committee members to join us!

Being on the committee isn't just about meetings—it's about making things happen. You'll have a say in decisions that keep our site running smoothly, from improving facilities to planning events like the annual show. It's a chance to bring fresh ideas, connect with fellow plot holders, and help build a stronger, more welcoming community.

Whether you have experience or just enthusiasm, we'd love to hear from you. Roles can be tailored to your interests—whether that's organising projects, managing communications, or simply lending a hand where needed.

If you care about the future of WSAA and want to get involved, this is your chance! Get in touch (info@whetstoneallotments.co.uk) to learn more.

HELLO

**COMING
SOON**

We have some new members on the allotments! If you see some new faces while working on the plots, please give them a warm WSAA welcome and offer a helping hand when you can.

The allotment shop reopens on Saturday, 29th March. We'll be open from 10 AM to 12 PM, so pop by for your gardening essentials. Also, Click & Collect details coming soon.

Recipe of the Month

Beetroot Chocolate Cake

This rich and indulgent Beetroot Chocolate Cake is the perfect treat for Valentine's Day! The natural sweetness of homegrown beets keeps it moist and fudgy, while a hint of coffee and cocoa makes it irresistibly chocolatey. Whether you're baking for a loved one or just treating yourself, this vibrant cake is a delicious way to celebrate the season of love!

- Prep Time: 15 minutes
- Cook Time: 1 hour

Ingredients

- 330 g (2.64 cups) All Purpose Flour
- 250 g (1.84 cups) Beets, just boiled until soft – no vinegar*
- 250 g (1.25 cups) Sugar
- 160 g (0.68 cups) Oat Milk or any plant milk of your choice
- 50 g (0.23 cups) Vegetable Oil
- 40 g (0.47 cups) Cocoa Powder
- 16 g (4 teaspoons) Baking Powder
- 10 g (2 tablespoons) Instant Coffee Granules
- 1 tablespoon Vanilla Paste
- Pinch of salt

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.



**Link to recipe at the bottom of the email*

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180° C (355° F).
2. Add the beets and all the wet ingredients to a food processor bowl and blitz until smooth and creamy.
3. Add in sifted flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder, coffee granules and salt, and process again until all is mixed up and well combined.
4. Line a 22cm - 9" round cake hinged mould with parchment paper and grease around the side.
5. Pour the batter into cake pan and smooth the top with a spatula. Bake for 50-55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean.
6. Allow the cake to cool down completely before de-moulding it.
7. Finish with your favourite frosting!

Thank you for reading!
