

WSAA Newsletter


March 2025



Spring is (Almost) Here!

With longer days and the first signs of new growth, the allotment is waking up—and so are we! March marks the start of the busy season, with plot holders clearing, planting, and preparing for another fruitful year.

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up soon—your chance to hear updates, share ideas, and help shape the future of our site. Another date for your diary—Seedy Sunday! Bring along spare seeds to swap and pick up something new for the season ahead. We'll also be holding a work party, a great opportunity to pitch in on communal tasks and catch up with fellow plot holders. And good news—the Trading Hut will be reopening, stocked with essentials to get your growing season off to a strong start.

We're also looking for volunteers to join the committee and help keep things running smoothly. If you'd like to get more involved, now is the perfect time to step up and make a difference!

As things get busier, it's a good time to refresh ourselves on key guidelines and community courtesies—we've included a reminder in this issue to help keep our site running smoothly for everyone.

Over on the community plot, there are exciting plans in motion, and as always, we'll be sharing a Recipe of the Month, making the most of the season's produce.

Here's to a productive and rewarding year ahead!

The Committee

Dates to remember:

AGM
Sat, 22 March

Seedy Sunday
Sun, 23 March

Next Work Party
Sat, 29 March

Trading Hut
Reopens
Sat, 29 March

In this edition:

Urgent Call for
Volunteers

Community Plot
Update

Rules & Courtesy
Reminders

Recipe of the
Month

Help Shape the Future of Our Allotment – Join the Committee!

Joining the committee is a fantastic opportunity to have a say in the direction of our allotment, support fellow plot holders, and contribute to the growth of our space. We need volunteers who are not only willing to help but are also up for taking on an officer role in future. With about 10 meetings a year, roles are flexible, and every contribution makes a difference.



Why Join?

- Have a Say – Influence important decisions about the allotment.
- Build Community – Connect with fellow plot holders and make new friendships.
- Make an Impact – Help improve the site and organise fun events.
- Learn & Grow – Develop valuable teamwork and leadership skills.

Our allotment thrives because of the dedication of its members, and we need volunteers now more than ever to help keep things running smoothly. The committee plays a crucial role in overseeing maintenance, managing resources, and making key decisions that ensure the ongoing success of our site. With more support, we can continue making improvements and strengthen our community.

Lead a Work Party – Keep Our Site Thriving!



Do you enjoy working with others and helping to keep the allotment in top shape? We're looking for volunteers to lead work parties—organising tasks, rallying volunteers, and ensuring our site remains well-maintained. It's a great way to meet fellow gardeners, share knowledge, and contribute to the community while getting some fresh air and exercise. If you have a passion for gardening or site upkeep, we'd love to hear from you!

Benefits of Leading a Work Party:

- Hands-On Contribution – Directly improve the site and keep it well-maintained.
- Meet Like-Minded Gardeners – Connect with others who share your passion.
- Develop Leadership Skills – Organise and motivate a team of volunteers.
- Enjoy the Outdoors – Stay active while making a visible difference.

Interested in supporting our allotment community?

Get in touch at info@whetstoneallotments.co.uk to find out more.

Do's & Don'ts: Allotment Rules and Courtesy

As the growing season gets busier, it's a great time to refresh ourselves on the essential rules and courtesies that keep our allotment running smoothly. Whether you're new to the site or a seasoned plot holder, following these simple Do's & Don'ts helps ensure everyone has a positive experience and that our community remains respectful and enjoyable for all.

🔥 Fires

DO:

- ✓ Burn only dry, organic, non-toxic materials.
- ✓ Be mindful of weather conditions (no burning on windy days).

DON'T:

- ✗ Burn toxic materials (plastics, treated wood).
- ✗ Burn on windy days that may affect nearby homes.

🚗 Parking

DO:

- ✓ Only park one car per plot per visit.
- ✓ Move deliveries (woodchip, manure) to your plot on the same day.

DON'T:

- ✗ Park multiple cars on the site.
- ✗ Leave deliveries unattended or block pathways.

🔊 Noise & Nuisance

DO:

- ✓ Be mindful of your neighbours.
- ✓ Keep noise levels low to ensure everyone can enjoy the site peacefully.
- ✓ On Sundays, only use strimmers, mowers, and noisy tools before 12pm.

DON'T:

- ✗ Cause unnecessary noise or disturbances.
- ✗ Use power tools after 12pm on Sundays.

🏗️ Structures

DO:

- ✓ Get committee permission before building **any** structure (shed, greenhouse, etc.).
- ✓ Send your plans, measurements, materials, and plot placement to info@whetstoneallotments.co.uk for approval.

DON'T:

- ✗ Build structures without approval.
- ✗ Assume structures are allowed without prior permission.

By following these guidelines, we all contribute to a more harmonious and productive environment. If you're unsure about any of the rules or need clarification, don't hesitate to contact the committee at info@whetstoneallotments.co.uk. Let's keep working together to make the allotment a wonderful space for everyone.



Community Plot Corner

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with the maintenance and construction of the new raised beds. The work is scheduled to take place in March.



Thanks to the Bat Conservation Trust, Brigid and Les are now trained Bat Walk Leaders! They'll be hosting a trial Bat Walk from Dollis Valley Brook to Whetstone Stray Allotments in April and would love some 'Guinea Pig' participants to join them and share feedback. If you're interested, please contact Les at 07957 388033.

The Community Plot will reopen once the works are completed in March. If you know someone who might benefit from gentle food-growing sessions, please get in touch.

Seedy Sunday – March 23rd, 11am to 1pm

Get ready to kick off the gardening season at our Seedy Sunday on **March 23rd, from 11am to 1pm**, held at the Trading Hut. This event is a fantastic way to swap seeds, share gardening tips, and connect with fellow allotment members and gardeners in the community.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, Seedy Sunday has something for everyone. It's the perfect opportunity to discover new seed varieties, exchange your extras, or pick up some advice on how to make the most of your growing space.

We're especially excited that Maggie will be running this year's event. With her wealth of gardening knowledge and friendly approach, she'll be on hand to guide you in selecting the best seeds for your plot and offer useful tips to help you get your garden off to a great start.



This event is all about sharing resources and knowledge, and we encourage everyone to bring any spare seeds they'd like to swap or donate. It's also a great way to meet new faces, catch up with old friends, and enjoy a fun, relaxed atmosphere with fellow gardening enthusiasts.

So, bring your seeds, your questions, and your enthusiasm – we can't wait to see you at the Trading Hut on March 23rd!

Recipe of the Month

Spring Veggie & Potato Hash

This simple, hearty dish celebrates the best of early spring produce like leeks, potatoes, and leafy greens. It's a great way to use up seasonal ingredients while creating a delicious, satisfying meal. Perfect for breakfast, brunch, or a light dinner, this dish is both nutritious and full of flavor!

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes



Ingredients

- 4 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 leeks, cleaned and sliced
- 1 cup spinach or kale, roughly chopped
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt & pepper, to taste
- Fresh herbs like parsley or thyme (optional)
- 1 tbsp nutritional yeast (optional, for a cheesy flavor)
- 1 tsp smoked paprika (optional, for a little smokiness)

Method

1. Boil the potatoes: In a large pot, cover the diced potatoes with water and bring to a boil. Cook until tender, about 10 minutes, then drain and set aside.
2. Sauté the leeks: In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the leeks and sauté until softened, about 5 minutes.
3. Add the potatoes and paprika: Toss the boiled potatoes into the skillet with the leeks. Season with salt, pepper, and smoked paprika (if using). Let the potatoes crisp up, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes.
4. Add greens: Stir in the spinach or kale and cook until wilted, about 2-3 minutes. If using nutritional yeast, sprinkle it in now for extra flavour.
5. Serve: Garnish with more fresh herbs or a drizzle of olive oil and enjoy!

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!
