



# Romsey Allotment Holders Association

growing together

APRIL 2018

*Message from the Chair (Carole Allen-Morley): Let us hope Spring is really on the way and we can at last get busy on our allotments! My big, unfinished task is pruning. At an excellent day with Chris Bird on correct pruning methods I learnt the following. Pruning increases vigour & growth. Prune plum, nectarine & peach trees in the Summer. Only prune 25% or less of the tree/bush to avoid weakening it. Prune Dead, Diseased, Damaged and Crossing branches first. The slightly raised collar around the branch where it joins the trunk is full of baby branch buds – try to encourage their growth into SPACE. Try to keep branches that have lots of flower (=fruit) buds – these are fatter than leaf buds & buds at the end. New branches take up to 5 years to be fruitful. Now I just need to get my saw and cut!!*

## **YOU can make a difference to our allotments**

We have 3 opportunities for you to help with the running of our allotments:

- New faces are needed for the committee which meets every 2 months, and makes decisions on how we are all doing and the way ahead.
- On a team to organise our entry to the Romsey Show on Sat 8th Sept .
- Estates Manager is needed. The responsibilities include: letting plots; arranging for hedge trimming; arranging road maintenance; arranging any other maintenance work on site including work parties; managing plot inspections by mentors; participating in the resolution process.

## **Protecting our bees and other pollinators**

There is a serious threat to our insect pollinators, including bees, moths, butterflies, flies and wasps, & most of our crops are highly dependent on these. We each need to manage our plot to halt this decline by thinking beyond fruit and vegetables and:

- have dense areas of nectar & pollen rich flowers throughout the year.
- be less tidy and encourage them to nest and tolerate them when you find a nest
- avoid using pesticides whenever possible, certainly avoid spraying open flowers
- provide a shallow source water, such as a saucer with stones or marbles



The RHS has a wealth of knowledge <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=648>



### **Free bird scarers**

Help yourself to CDs from the noticeboard by the exit gate.



### **Seed Swap!**

Swap your spare seeds - look for the red bin at the crossroads.

### **Your plot number**

Please make sure that your plot is clearly numbered. How you do this is up to you so be as creative as you like!



### **Please report thefts**

If you've had thefts of produce or tools please email the committee ([info@RomseyAllotments.org.uk](mailto:info@RomseyAllotments.org.uk)) and consider letting the police know (tel: 101)



*Have you something to share with other members? Email contributions (up to 100 words) to: [info@romseyallotments.org.uk](mailto:info@romseyallotments.org.uk)*



### **Pumpkins for Romsey Primary School**

If you have spare space, please could you plant a pumpkin (either from your own seed or host a plant from the school) to donate to the school in October to sell to raise funds for benches and a playtrail. ALSO if you have a favourite pumpkin they'd love your advice. Contact Zoe (plots 13B and 118A) zoe.duke@yahoo.co.uk



### **Poop patch: plot 128a**

Fresh manure for members is regularly delivered to plot 128A

### **Recent news on our Facebook Group:**

- Poop in the Poop Pile is waiting for you.
- Free PVC pipe at Pipestock
- Weather comments and photos !!
- 12 bags of Young Farmers poop left over.
- Youth in Romsey have taken on Plot 83 and would like old tools and a shed.

**Wood chips:** Help yourself to the woodchips that are occasionally delivered to a public area.

Many uses including paths but depletes goodness so not good as a mulch or in compost.

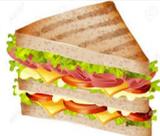


**A Burning Issue** Please make every effort to compost your allotment waste. If you do burn waste it must only be from your plot and must be dry.

**Any fire must not cause any inconvenience to other plot holders, to road users or to neighbouring houses.**

### **How do you scrub up before lunch?**

Some plot holders keep a hand sterilising gel on their plot.



**Meet your committee:** Robert Le Grice (Treasurer) >>>>

**Plot:** 4, for about 6 years, helped by my wife, son & occasionally daughter.

**Mentor** to plots 15 to 32

**Last year's best crop?** Yellow dwarf French beans

**Biggest challenge last year?** Keeping down the weeds – I kept them down until the rain in late summer and then it became hard to manage

**Plans for this year?** Concentrate on crops that worked well last year (yellow French dwarf beans, climbing French beans, courgettes, pumpkins, salad potatoes & have a go at beetroot & cabbage. I'm also renewing my fruit bed to replace redcurrants & apple variety I'd inherited with a fan cherry and some new cordon apples.

**Top tip?** Try the yellow French dwarf bean "Rocquencourt" (Dobies) - very compact plants and flower and fruit continuously for months and from very early in summer.

### **Tetanus jab?**

If it's more than 10 yrs since you had yours then you might like to contact your doctor before the season really gets going or if you have cut yourself on a plant or got soil or manure in an open wound.

### **When a plot is in a bad state** ([Allotment Rule 9c](#))

1. the Estates Manager will check if the plot holder needs help & give a verbal warning of what needs to be done in the month.
2. after a month, if it's still in a bad state, the plot holder will be given one month's notice to sort it out or to quit.
3. after that month, if it's still in a bad state, the plot holder will be given a notice to quit & has 1 week to remove anything from the plot.

*Moving?*

*New email address?*

*New phone number?*

*Need help with your plot?*

*No longer need your plot?*

**Please remember to let us know!**

Email: [info@romseyallotments.org.uk](mailto:info@romseyallotments.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.romseyallotments.org.uk/>

Facebook: [Romsey Allotments](#)