



Romsey Allotment Holders Association

growing together

August 2018

Message from Carole: Welcome to this issue of the Newsletter. As I write, the clouds are gathering so I am thinking hopeful, rain thoughts. It has been a difficult year so far, & the new allotmentees are certainly having a trial of, if not fire, then cold, deluge & heat. Despite everything, harvesting is in full swing, a testament to the indomitable spirit of gardeners. Sorry to say, there have been some unpleasant happenings at the allotments: sheds broken into, water taken, pavers removed, so keep your eyes open for any untoward behaviour & report thefts on the police hot-line, 101. Most importantly, enjoy the Summer.

Parking matters

Many members sacrifice part of their growing area for parking their own car, and so they have priority to park there. If your plot does not have its own parking area please aim to use the car park by the gate opposite the Rapids.



If you still have to park on someone else's plot then please:

- PUT YOUR PLOT NUMBER VISIBLE IN THE CAR WINDOW
- be prepared to move your vehicle when asked to
- DO NOT BLOCK ROADS OR PATHS (RAHA Rule 9J)
- do not block access to any part of the plot including paths

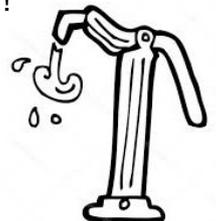
Water: liquid gold

All water that you take that you have not pumped yourself **MUST BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY**. Someone has already worked hard to pump it and unless it is replaced this is **THEFT!**

BEFORE using a pump:

- **CHECK** with the plot holder that you can do so: most of the pumps are the private property of the plot holder
- **PRIME** the pump by pouring CLEAN water into the hole where the rod goes down

If you have a pump that is not working then Suffolk Barrel give advice on repairs and provide spare parts www.SuffolkBarrel.co.uk (01787 247600)



A Burning Issue

Please **AVOID** having a bonfire in this very hot, dry spell when we must be particularly aware of the problems that bonfires cause.

RAHA Rule 9F says:

- **Any fire must not cause any inconvenience to other plot holders, road users or to neighbouring houses.**
- Members must make every effort to compost allotment waste.
- Members may not burn any material other than dry allotment waste.

Rat update

Hopefully you will be pleased to learn that a professional rat control company will soon be on site dealing with our rat problem. Please do **NOT** put down rat poison as this impacts other creatures.

Please do what you can to make your plot less attractive to rats by following the advice on this website: <http://tinyurl.com/PreventRats>



Plotting together. side by side

The RAHA has a set of rules that were carefully put together to help make our life together at the allotments easier, and you will have agreed to these when you joined. Please take a few minutes to refamiliarise yourself with these Rules

http://www.romseyallotments.org.uk/?page_id=89



Show Time!! (Annual RAHA show and Romsey Show)

Pamper your produce and cosset your crops, scare those crows ready to show them off.... TWICE!

Please support by donating some of your produce - judges would like to know the varieties of what you are showing.

Details will be publicised nearer the time.

1st Sept: Annual RAHA Show

Venue to be confirmed

Scarecrows will be judged on the plots – the best 2 will go to Romsey Show

8th Sept: Romsey Show (theme is the end of WW1)

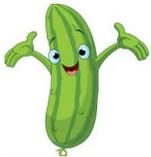


If you can **OFFER PRODUCE** or **HELP** before or during the show then please contact Melissa mLa1@soton.ac.uk

Paths and hedges



Members are responsible for maintaining paths & hedges adjacent to their plot. In the summer this means keeping paths mown or strimmed at least once a month. Hedge trimming is best kept for October to March to avoid disturbing nesting birds. Many members whose plot shares paths or hedges with other plots lighten the load by sharing the work with their neighbours – have you discussed this with yours?.



Cool as a cucumber or hot as a radish?

Love it or loath it, we're all together in this hot and dry summer.

Keep cool with everyone around you – there is no need for heated arguments!

Be sure to keep hydrated (tap water is best) and remember to slip, slap, slop:

(**slip** a shirt on, **slap** a hat on, **slop** factor 30+ suncream on).



Butterfly survey update

This is going well with surveyors finding interest and support from fellow allotmenters. Half the survey season has now past and the adverse weather has suppressed butterfly numbers as well as crops. Non butterfly species such as moths and birds are also being recorded as these data can be added to the UK Butterfly Monitoring Service website and will provide a valuable record of wildlife on allotment habitat.



Sign up for the latest news

If you have an email address you can sign up to Facebook to get the latest Allotments news & chat from the Romsey Allotments group.

If you are unsure about Facebook you can get help from various places

e.g: Weds 10-12 or 1-3 at All Saints North Baddesley (£3 incl tea/coffee)

& 2nd & 4th Tues 10–12 at Carers Together 9 Love Lane (£2 incl tea/coffee)

Get ready now for harvesting Sometimes we grow more than we, our families and friends can possibly get through. For timeslike that (but not for planned excesses) you can join the Romsey Country Market for just 5p a year. You would need to be available to help now and then, and a small commission is taken on sales.



To find out more drop into the Town Hall (10-11:30 usually 2nd & 4th Fri, sometimes additional dates – see sign in Town Hall) or to Ampfield Village Hall: 1st Sat 10-12 (not Jan/Aug)

Useful advice for novice and seasoned allotmenters alike can be found on the Royal Horticultural Society website: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own>

Moving?

New email address?

New phone number?

Need help with your plot?

No longer need your plot?

Please remember to let us know!

Definition of a weed:

a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.



Email: info@romseyallotments.org.uk

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

Facebook: [Romsey Allotments](#)