



Romsey Allotment Holders Association

growing together

MAY 2018

Message from the Chair: Welcome to this issue of the Newsletter, & I am delighted to announce the Estate Manager post has been filled by Jo White, who works plots 6A, 7B & 8B. She will rely on everyone's support & help, so please introduce yourselves when you meet her. Our butterfly team has been busy observing more than the "white jobbers" & I was thrilled to see a Tiger Moth & Red Admiral on my plot! There are many articles below that are interesting, pertinent & fun – I particularly draw your attention to "Watering our Plots" as the hot weather continues. Looking forward to meeting more of you as we get busy growing & harvesting. *Carole Allen-Morley*

Please remember that we have a **one way system** to prevent incidents on our tracks and to avoid traffic exiting from the Rapids gate.



Please drive with care

Please remember that we have a **5mph speed limit** on our roads. This is for safety and also to help maintain the road surface.

You may find that even by keeping your foot off the accelerator you are going faster than that!



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 times like 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



COUNTRY MARKETS
COOK • CRAFT • GROW

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)

Plot numbers: Please remember to put up your plot number(s) so that they are clearly visible. Be as creative as you dare! A quick simple way is to use a permanent marker on a piece cut from the inside of a washed margarine tub, and nail it to a vertical surface.

Any plots without a clearly visible number will be numbered by the committee.

Be sparing with any weedkiller and slug pellets! Both endanger wildlife that is useful to us. Roundup says it is NOT to be used anywhere near food crops. At the allotments there is ALWAYS enough breeze for it to drift onto food crops.



Definition of a weed: a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.



Still a chance of frost, sun or drought

Seedlings might be trying to crawl out of their pots and clamouring to be planted, but there is still the chance of frost. If you plant anything out it's worth protecting them – techniques seen around the plots include: 2 litre pop bottles or plastic milk bottles with the bottom cut off, held in place with a stick; horticultural bells (plastic or glass); horticultural fleece.

But excessive sunshine or lack of water are equally harmful and common in May, so keep an eye on your precious seedlings and pamper them according to the weather conditions.

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>





Are you keeping on top of your plot?!

During the growing season committee representatives wander around to see how everyone is getting on. If a plot is not being properly cultivated then the plot holder will be given a months notice to do so.



If you find you are struggling then email info@romseyallotments.org.uk maybe help can be found for you. This is always the best option.

Discouraging rats at the allotment site is everybody's responsibility. To help prevent them making your plot their home please follow the advice on this website:

<http://tinyurl.com/PreventRats>



Watering our plots

Please make sure **before** taking ANY water that you have not pumped yourself that **you are able to replace it and that you do so** – someone has already worked hard to pump it!

Capturing rainwater is a much easier option – either at your plot (look around the allotments for some ingenious methods) or at home & bring it in containers each time you visit.

Open water should be covered to avoid infestation and **must have an escape route** for any insect or animal that might fall into it – leaving a stick or piece of wood sticking out of the water is good for this.



Meet the committee: Melissa Doherty

Plot 123A Since August 2018.

My husband does the heavy work, I plant & weed & my son helps with picking & eating.

Checking plots 98 to 109B

Biggest challenge last year? Deer ate the tops off all my kale & sprouting broccoli, then they went to seed early.

Plans for the coming season? Heritage varieties of potatoes, cauliflower, carrots, beans, onion, garlic (but may be temperamental & why common varieties are popular). For sweeter turnips pick early.

Top tip? protect with nets, bird scarers, scarecrows, moving windmills. Visit often to pick off slugs, snails, caterpillars.

The rain and warm days we've been having have really got the grass paths growing again. Please remember to **keep the paths around your plots maintained** so that easy access is possible.



Rubbish clearance a quick web search of Romsey rubbish clearance shows a list of local services. Make sure that the one you choose will dispose of it responsibly and that your rubbish isn't fly-tipped (and possibly traced back to you).



Remember our little helpers!

We depend on so many insects and butterflies for the success of our crops. It's easy to attract them and help them do their job, for example leave a patch of stinging nettles, put in plants they'll like (see the RHS website), keep an area untidy for them to find a home in.



Around & about: shops at other allotments for low price supplies after you join them. Totton (Sun 10-12 and some Weds) and Eastleigh: Boyatt Wood (Sun 10:30-11:30), Manor Farm (Sat&Sun 11-12:30), Lakeside (Sun 9-12), Woodside (Sat 2-4, Sun 10-12). A web search will show you the locations of all of these.

Moving?

New email address?

New phone number?

Need help with your plot?

No longer need your plot?

Please remember to let us know!

Committee meeting minutes are posted on the allotments notice boards. If you'd like a copy emailed to you then please email info@romseyallotments.org.uk

Email: info@romseyallotments.org.uk

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

Facebook: [Romsey Allotments](https://www.facebook.com/RomseyAllotments)