

Newsletter

Ash Road Allotment Association

The Newsletter

Anything for the newsletter? Please let me know. Chris Martin (Plot 59).
Mobile 07939 559 424. Email:
chris.e.martin@ntlworld.com

Coffee and Advice

Remember you are invited for *FREE* coffee on Sunday mornings. Come along to the Hut at 11 am.



Allotment Calendar

Malcolm has put together a **Calendar for 2018** that features photographs taken at the Allotments. The Calendar is A5 size, opening up to A4 when hanging

Copies can be bought at the Hut for £3.00. Now there's an idea for a Christmas present for someone...!

We are also planning early for a 2019 Calendar, so we'd encourage you to **send in suitable photos taken on the allotment site over the next year.**

The photos need to be high resolution, so preferably taken with a camera.

Please email any submissions to ash_road_allotments@aol.co.uk

Thanks

Martin House, the provider of hospice care for young people, have written to thank us for the £640 raised for them at our annual show in September.



Merry Christmas!

The heavy snow that was forecast earlier in the month didn't quite get as far as Headingley, so we haven't quite got the snowy scene pictured above. Nevertheless with all the frost and the cold winds, there are plenty of days to sit by the fire, keep warm and make those plans for improving your plots and for ordering in those seeds for 2018.

On behalf of everyone on the Committee I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please Can You Help?

Please come to our next **'Work Party'** on **Saturday January 27th at 10am.** The task will be to make more secure the site boundary with Batcliffe Wood. If you can **bring any spare, rooted brambles or similar hedging bushes** that would be great. Work parties are a good opportunity to get to know other plot-holders. If you can only spare an hour, your help would be much appreciated.

Planning for Next Year

In January the Committee will be planning a schedule of events for 2018. We'd love to hear any suggestions for on-site events or other activities that you would like to see during the course of the year. Please contact a Committee Member, post your suggestion on the Facebook page, or email ash_road_allotments@aol.co.uk



Find us on:
facebook®

Still haven't joined us on Facebook? Follow the link - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1115906655100815>. Keep up-to-date, post items of interest to other allotment holders and contact the Committee.



Spot the Birds

Adrian Luke has drawn up a list of birds species seen on the Allotments. There are 28 species in total. Can you add to this in 2018? Perhaps this is something that your children can help with?

If you can add to the list, please contact a Committee member or email chris.e.martin@ntlworld.com.

The list so far:

Blackbird
Black-Headed Gull
Chaffinch
Collared Dove
Crow
Goldfinch
Greenfinch
House Martin
Jackdaw
Jay
Kestrel
Magpie
Red Kite (on the ground and in air)
Robin
Rook
Song Thrush
Sparrowhawk
Sparrows (Hedge and Tree)
Starling
Swallow
Swift
Tits (Blue, Coal, Great, Long-Tailed)
Wood Pigeon
Wren

What to do over Winter?

There is plenty of pruning and tidying up to be done. Clear out any areas that have finished cropping, remove old plant debris and weeds, and put these on your compost heap if not diseased. Cover areas with tarpaulin that you may not be able to plant early in the year. Dig in manure or compost if the ground is not too wet. If you operate a 'no dig' system, just spread manure or leaf mould and let the worms do the work. If you have a polytunnel or fruit cage remember to clear any snow as soon as possible to avoid damage.

Use the days of bad weather to plan for next year. Some crops are prone to pests and diseases and by moving them around your plot each year (so the same crops are not in the same location) this reduces disease and pests and improves the soil. Keep a record each year of what you plant where. A four year rotation might be to plant root veg (potatoes, carrots); then the onion family (onions, shallots, leeks); then legumes (peas, mangetout, beans); then brassicas (cabbage, kale, broccoli etc.). An easier three year rotation would be roots and onions; then peas, beans, legumes; and finally brassicas. Root veg break the ground and onions do not need rich nitrogen. The beans create nitrogen (dig in their roots at the end of the season), brassicas follow because they need nitrogen. Remember turnips and swedes are brassicas, not root vegetables.

The principle of rotation is perhaps more important than a specific order of crops - just move things around from year to year and don't plant the same crop in the same place two years in a row.

To help plan for next year a guide to 'what', 'when' and 'where' you can sow your vegetable seeds is set out on the last page. Sowing times depend on the weather and risk of frost.

Notices

- The **Water Supply** is now switched off for the winter
- Please **don't dump your weeds or unwanted plant material** on the communal bonfire site.
- The **heap of 'scalpings' (aggregate material)** close to the main access track is for site maintenance purposes only and is not for use by plot holders. Please do not remove any of this material.
- **Membership cards for the Leeds & District Allotment Gardeners' Federation** are available from the Hut. There is a 10% discount with this card at 'The Arium' (the Leeds Parks Nurseries featured in a previous newsletter).
- Winter is the quiet period, but this should not mean plots are abandoned. **Initial plot inspections will take place in late February 2018** to make sure they are being used or work is at least underway. It is only fair that we draw attention to plots that appear to be abandoned or unworked early in the year so that we can give plot holders the chance to take remedial action or re-let plots in time for the 2018 growing season.

vegetable growing chart

At-a-glance guide to sowing and harvesting times for most popular vegetables.
This chart covers 18 months so it shows the harvest period for the following year

- sow under cloche, cold frame, or in unheated greenhouse
- plant out from under glass
- sow outdoors
- transplant outdoor sowings
- harvest period

Vegetable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Planting distance between plants	Planting distance between rows
Beans - Runner (double rows)				■	■	■	■												15cm (6")	30cm (12")
Beans - Dwarf French			■	■	■	■													15cm (6")	60cm (2')
Beans - Broad			■			■				■								■	23cm (9")	60-90cm (2-3')
Beet				■	■	■	■												5-8cm (2-3")	30cm (12")
Borecole (Curly Kale)				■	■	■	■				■	■	■	■	■	■			60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Broccoli - Sprouting				■	■	■	■										■		60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Brussels Sprouts		■	■	■	■	■	■							■	■				60-90cm (2-3')	60-90cm (2-3')
Cabbage (summer & autumn)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■												45cm (18")	45cm (18")
Cabbage (spring)							■		■	■							■	■	38cm (15")	38cm (15")
Cabbage (winter)				■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■					60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Cabbage (Savoy)				■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■				60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Carrots		■	■	■	■	■	■												5-7½cm (2-3")	5-7½cm (2-3")
Cauliflower (summer & autumn)		■	■	■	■	■	■												60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Cauliflower (winter & spring)				■	■	■	■							■	■	■	■		60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Celery		■	■	■	■	■	■												30cm (12")	30cm (12")
Cucumber (Greenhouse)		■	■	■	■	■	■												60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Leaf Beet (Perpetual Spinach)				■	■	■	■	■											5-7½cm (2-3")	30cm (12")
Leek		■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■	■	■			23-30cm (9-12")	30cm (12")
Lettuce		■	■	■	■	■	■			■									23-30cm (9-12")	23-30cm (9-12")
Marrow, Courgettes & Squash	bush varieties		■	■	■	■	■												60cm (2')	60cm (2')
	trailing varieties		■	■	■	■	■												120cm (4')	120cm (4')
Melon		■	■	■	■	■	■												60cm (2')	60cm (2')
Onion Seed	■	■	■	■	■	■	■												10-15cm (4-6")	22½cm (9")
Onion Sets			■	■	■	■	■												10cm (4")	30cm (12")
Parsnip			■	■	■	■	■							■	■	■	■		15-20cm (6-8")	30-38cm (12-15")
Pea			■	■	■	■	■												5-7½cm (2-3")	60-90cm (2-3')
Pepper (Capsicum)		■	■	■	■	■	■												45cm (18")	45cm (18")
Potato			■	■	■	■	■												30cm (12")	30cm (12")
Radish			■	■	■	■	■			■									15cm (6")	15cm (6")
Shallot		■	■	■	■	■	■												15cm (6")	15cm (6")
Spinach			■	■	■	■	■												15-20cm (6-8")	30cm (12")
Swede					■	■	■					■	■	■	■	■			20cm (8")	38cm (15")
Sweet Corn				■	■	■	■												35cm (14")	35cm (14")
Tomato (Greenhouse)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■												45cm (18")	45cm (18")
Tomato (Outdoor)		■	■	■	■	■	■												45cm (18")	45cm (18")
Turnip				■	■	■	■												23cm (9")	30cm (12")