

# WFAA NEWS

Autumn 2022 Edition

QUEEN ELIZABETH II  
1926 - 2022



www.westonfavellallotments.co.uk

Shared News, Views & Ideas

Established 1938 tbd?



Evening views over Weston Favell Allotments!

In this issue..

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Bulbs Galore &  
Autumn Tips

Longest Plot Holder

Mulch, Mulch, More..

Thick Skinned

Notice Board

Get Your  
Potato  
Orders in  
by 31st  
October

## AUTUMN PLANTING 2022

	QUANTITY	PRICE
GARLIC THERMIDROME	3	£2.70
ONION SET RADAR	Onion sets sold out	£1.50
SHALLOTS (Golden Gourmet)	300g	£1.50
BROAD BEANS Aquadulce	200g	£1.80

ALL AVAILABLE AT THE SHOP NOW!



See below for  
Varieties and  
Order form

All £2.70 for  
2kg

WESTON FAVELL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

2022

# AGM

TUESDAY

25th OCTOBER

7.30pm

in CHURCH HALL

(Opposite the Church)

Refreshments  
will include  
wine and nibbles

# WESTON FAVELL VILLAGE SHOW



Another very successful Village Show thanks to Sue Wray and her team. A great occasion for so many to get together. From around the community

I know that Sue had concerns there would not be enough exhibits. Calls went out to allotmenters and local gardeners who responded magnificently which resulted in more exhibits than ever before!



The exceptionally hot summer may have limited the flower entries but there was no sign of it deterring the vegetable growers. It is always a joy to see the display of vegetables, not only for the glorious colours of red, green, yellow, purple, orange, cream and maroon, but the variety. I counted 21 in one basket alone. Skirret, never heard of it! A precursor of the potato apparently, the fine roots were eaten in Europe.

The houseplants made a wonderful display and the flowers and beautifully scented roses rescued from scorched gardens were a wonder.

And there is always the buzz of excitement when exhibitors see the rosettes!

The bakers and preserve makers delighted us with perfect sponges, scones, bread, unusual combinations in the chutneys, sparkingly clear apple jellies, creamy lemon curds and an assortment of jams.





Other Classes deserve a mention too as they all added to the overall feeling of camaraderie, togetherness and community that existed among the exhibitors.

These included the childrens environmental exhibits. The photography and the arts and crafts exhibits in St. Peters Church across the road also drew a big audience.

Local people coming together, enjoying their tea, cake, the company of friends, neighbours and people they were meeting for the first time, a true community event.

With many thanks to Barbara Bream for this article

(apologies for the editing!)



Allotment Art

Any artists out there producing allotment inspired art? Why not get in touch and share your creativity so we can include a feature in the Newsletter. [Westonfavellallotmentassociation@gmail.com](mailto:Westonfavellallotmentassociation@gmail.com)

## BULBS GALORE

Autumn is on the horizon and I, for one, will be glad to be relieved of the daily watering regime that has been necessary during this exceptionally long, hot summer. As our compost bins are filled with spent courgette and runner bean plants, we can think ahead to next spring.

Autumn is the best and easiest time to dig the plot over before winter arrives and hopefully we will get some rain otherwise it will be hard work indeed.

One of the more pleasurable tasks at this time of year is choosing which bulbs to plant to flower next spring. I picked my first bunch of daffodils on 28<sup>th</sup> February this year and continued throughout March. Tulips followed and I picked them for about 6 weeks.



Daffodils / narcissi can be planted from September onwards and tulips in October and November (although I have even planted as late as December and the tulips were just as good). This year I have ordered bulbs from Parkers but will of course be making trips to Wilkos and Aldi to see what is on offer. Wilkos' bulbs are very reasonably priced and my favourites have been Queen of The Night (striking, dark aubergine coloured tulips, late flowering) and also Angelique (a double pale pink tulips, similar to a peony flower).

If Angelique aren't available, Double Late Finola has a very similar flower.

Planting bulbs where they are unlikely to get disturbed means they won't need lifting and storing after they have flowered, although some people prefer to do this. Either way bulbs are a welcome sight as the days grow longer and warmer after winter. Spring is a fabulous time to pick sprouting broccoli, spinach and a bunch of cheerfulness at the same time! (Cheerfulness is a type of narcissi, for those who haven't grown daffs before) ☺



Attached are a couple of photos of some of the tulips I grew this spring (and hopefully will come up again next year).

## **AUTUMN TIPS for the MONTH**

### **September**

Although September is mainly the month for harvesting all the vegetables and fruits that you have grown, there are things to sow and plant ready for next year. Prepare space and the ground to sow garlic, onion sets, shallots and broad beans all available from the hut on a Sunday morning. Other salad crops and sweet peas can also be sown.

Also this month you can plant your new strawberry plants or runners. It is a good idea to stake tall brassicas such as sprouts and broccoli on exposed gardens to prevent the wind blowing them over. Enjoy your gardening in one of the nicest months of the year.

Remember as well to collect and dry seeds from your favourite flowers (cosmos, calendula, tithonia etc) and vegetables (runner beans, French beans and sweetcorn)

### **October**

Still time to plant those seeds above. It is also time to plant flowering bulbs ready for a Spring display.

It is a good time to plant bare-root bushes of gooseberry and currants - red, white and black.

Leave your pumpkins and squashes to "cure" in the sunshine. This hardens their skin so they will keep longer, but take them inside before the first frosts.

Dig up the rest of your potatoes and store them somewhere frost free (before the slugs get them).

Clear away dead foliage of sweet corn and all other crops that have finished growing. Now this could be left to lie for a few weeks as a mulch and to let beneficial insects hide and hatch (hover flies etc.) Maybe chop or shred before piling onto the compost heap.

### **November**

Bare root plants of fruit trees and bushes are able to get established, if they are planted this month, before the winter weather sets in. They are apple, pear, plums, cherries, red, white and blackcurrants, blueberries, cranberries, gooseberries, raspberries, apricots, peaches, blackberries to name a few.

One more tip, taking the netting off of your fruit trees and bushes, including fruit cages, will enable the birds to access the ground and clean up all those bugs and creepy-crawlies that otherwise could build up to plague you next season.

## Mulch, Mulch More!

**Mulching** is a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch over the soil that helps to retain moisture in the summer, suppress weeds, improve soil texture and release nutrients. And.. add some protection from frost.

Climate change projections for the UK predict: wetter winters, drier summers and higher average temperatures across all seasons.

Compost companies offer a choice of ready made mulch products containing bark, straw, seaweed, bracken etc. But personally I don't agree with buying mulch as we have the raw materials to make our own.

### Materials for Mulching

- Manure - best but costly?
- Home made compost - needs time to decompose, sieving and/or shredding.
- Grass cuttings - quantity issues (ensure no weed killer present).
- Cardboard - supply issues and needs weighing down.
- Seaweed - yes please and great nutrient but quantity issues
- Leaf mould - mix with own compost
- Fleece and Debris netting - not really a mulch but great for frost protection and possibly keeps moisture in too.

### Home Made Leaf Mould Bin.

- Put 4 small posts about 3ft long in the ground.
- Fix wire netting to all 4 sides.
- Line the bottom with cardboard or old plastic compost bags.
- Fill with leaves and weigh down with another piece of wire netting or plastic.
- Forget about it until next year.



Examples of leaf mould bins

Apply Mulch when the soil is wet and warm in autumn or spring and take care not to pile up against plants stems as it will cause them to rot.

Please let me know if you agree, disagree or have other ideas.

[Westonfavellallotsments@gmail.com](mailto:Westonfavellallotsments@gmail.com)



## Thick Skinned

This year, as in previous years, I have had a decent crop of tomatoes. There have been a few issues, not staking them high enough so they are leaning over way too much, a little bit of blossom end rot and some mislabelling. All in all, not a bad crop.

However, whilst they look good, the skins are much thicker than previous years. So thick, they are rather unpleasant to eat.

I understood that some tomatoes just naturally have thick skins when I planted the Roma tomatoes, but then the plan was to make these into sauce, so the skins would be taken off in any event. The problem is that they are all like this, even my little cherry tomatoes that normally can just be popped in the mouth, have quite thick skins.

This is not really surprising given the summer we have had with excessively high temperatures and low rainfall.

Part of the survival reaction of the plant is to grow thicker skins in order to conserve the water it gets as a thicker skin holds onto the water better. Consistent watering is key.

It is important to ensure that the soil never completely dries out (one of the downside of a week's holiday!). Mulching is great for conserving the moisture in the soil. Next year I will be adding a thick layer of mulch consisting of dead leaves, grass cuttings and straw.

Thick skins also protect the fruit from sunscald and protect the fruit from burning from direct sunlight, especially when it is very warm. Rigging up a fleece shade will definitely be something I will consider next year, if there are long sunny periods!

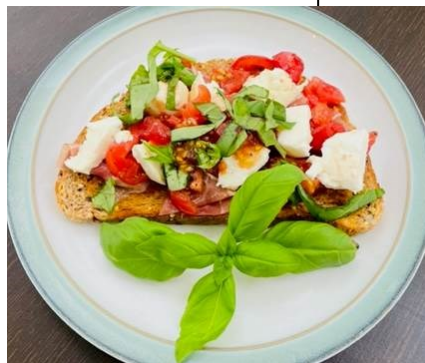
Despite my woes, I have still managed to fill the freezer with yummy homemade allotment tomato sauce, have jars of semi dehydrated cherry tomatoes in olive oil and are having fresh tomatoes in salad and on bruschetta, albeit without the skins.

So lessons learnt, and with hindsight, I look forward to next year's crop. There is nothing really like a homegrown tomato.

I intend to persevere.

Thanks to *Geny* on Plot 84 for this piece.

I know *Geny* is not the only one whose tomatoes suffered.



## Allotment ownership – who has had an allotment for the longest period of time

Seems we provoked conversation following the article in the last newsletter about who has had an allotment the longest. Jan and Kit Clarke (plots 144 and 145) tell us they've had an allotment since 1969 but that they thought there were other people who had had one earlier.

I've made enquiries and Bob Emerson (plot 93A) seems to be in the lead so far. Bob lived in Westone in the 1950s and helped a friend on his allotment on this site. Bob then decided that he would like one of his own so obtained one in 1957. He can remember being on the allotment in 1962 hearing about the Cuban Missile Crisis and wondering why he was bothering! He is still enjoying an allotment some 60 years later and long may that continue.

Second place goes to Neil Dairymple on plot 37 who has had his plot since 1960. Apparently, Neil used to have 9 plots in the early days. The council asked him to plough one a year!

Can anyone else beat Bob's or Neils record? Let us know by emailing [westonfavellallotments@gmail.com](mailto:westonfavellallotments@gmail.com).

Thanks *Carol*, Plot 94, for this piece of investigative journalism!



# Notice Board

Weston Favell Allotment Association

## POTATO ORDER FORM

Please bring your order to THE HUT together with cash or cheque by 31ST October 2022

FIRST EARLIES	2.0 Kg PRICE	QUANTITY	Totals
INTERNATIONAL KIDNEY	£2.70	2.0kg	
LADY CRYSTAL	£2.70	2.0kg	
PENTLAND JAVELIN	£2.70	2.0kg	
ROCKET	£2.70	2.0kg	
SWIFT	£2.70	2.0kg	
<b>SECOND EARLIES</b>			
CHARLOTTE	£2.70	2.0kg	
KESTREL	£2.70	2.0kg	
NADINE	£2.70	2.0kg	
NICOLA	£2.70	2.0kg	
<b>MAIN CROP</b>			
CARA	£2.70	2.0kg	
DESIREE	£2.70	2.0kg	
PICASSO	£2.70	2.0kg	
SARPO MIRA	£2.70	2.0kg	
VALOR	£2.70	2.0kg	

Cheques payable to  
"Weston Favell Allotment  
Association"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PLOT No. \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL £ :

Weston Favell Allotment Association

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ONION SETS RADAR	300g	£1.50
SHALLOTS (Golden Gourmet)	300g	£1.50
BROAD BEANS Aquadulce	200g	£1.80

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PLOT No. \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL £ :

Onion sets sold out

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2022

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**TUESDAY**

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**in CHURCH HALL**

( Opposite the Church)

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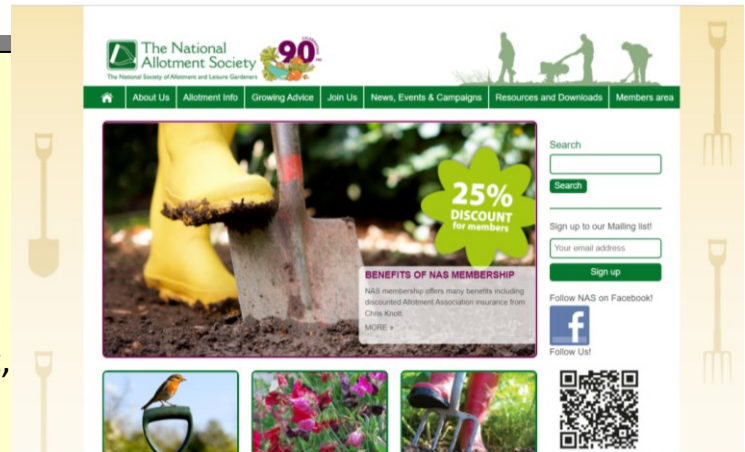
## Kings Seeds Ordering Online

*Its time to start planning for next year with your order from Kings Seeds.*

This year, in the interests of the environment, The Kings Seed catalogue for allotment members is online.

If you haven't ordered online before, contact me on [woodley11@virginmedia.com](mailto:woodley11@virginmedia.com) and I will set you up as a buyer.

To access it via the National Allotment Society of which you are all members, log in to [www.nsalg.org.uk](http://www.nsalg.org.uk) and go to the "Members Area".



### Members Area

The log in details are :  
username **s153b** and the  
password is **3079539**.  
Go to the "Kings Seed Scheme"

Your membership number is your user name, and your unique password is supplied in your new member pack. If you are an affiliate member contact your site secretary for log-in details. Email [natsoc@nsalg.org.uk](mailto:natsoc@nsalg.org.uk) for help

Membership Number

My Password

Remember Me

**Enter Log In Details**

You'll find a "CLICK HERE" for the digital online catalogue  
Also another "CLICK HERE" for the 2022/2023 order form.

Follow the instructions for accessing the catalogue and ordering.

*Look out for postage costs and remember to include them.*

*Remember, the prices for allotment holders are about 40% cheaper than elsewhere.*

## Dates for your diaries..



*Remember, Remember  
the 5th of November,  
Gunpowder, Treason and  
Plot.*

I know of no reason

Why the Gunpowder  
Treason should ever be  
forgot!

### **Leek Moth - allium leaf miner fly**

This pest only attacks members of the onion family. And is particularly partial to leeks.

#### **How to Tell You Have Allium Leaf Miner on your leeks**

The track marks on the leaves indicate eggs are being laid.

Sometimes the leaves will show tracks from the tunnels (galleries) eaten by the maggot. The leaves will curl and collapse.

Maggots can be found inside vertical tunnels inside the leaves and flesh of the plant. Small brown pupae are found at the base of the tunnels near the surface but inside the plant. The tracks may be easier to spot.

#### **Control of the Allium Leaf Miner**

The only practical control is to cover the crop. Danger periods are March to June and Sept to Nov. The Hut sells Debris netting and is a proven barrier against Leek Moth. It comes 2 metre wide and costs approx. £1.60 per metre.

If the infestation is detected in the crop, affected plants should be uprooted and burned. Don't compost infested plants, the pupae will still be able to hatch spreading the infection.

***Sue and David were chatting about this nasty pest and reminded me that now is a danger time.***





## MULLED WINE

(alcoholic and non alcoholic)



## MINCE PIES

**Sunday 11th December**  
**10.00 - 11.30**  
In the summer house  
Come and join us for a bit of  
Christmas cheer



## The Ripple Effect.

Did you know that you can help gardeners in rural Kenya by twinning your garden or allotment?

For a donation of £60.00 you can twin your allotment plot or garden with a garden in Kenya.

This donation goes toward providing training, fertiliser and suitable seeds.

Now the twinning of plots/gardens doesn't sound like it's carried out the way we understand twinning as you don't get to see the plot your twinned with.

For your donation you receive a wooden plaque, wildflower seeds and a vegetable growing guide written by Charles Dowding.

It's a shame you don't get more detail about the Kenyan gardens twinned.

However the charity try to make sure the funds are concentrated on providing the support and training needed for the Women of Migori, Kenya.

The charity 'Ripple Effect' helps families struggling with the impact of climate change to grow produce to feed their family and to provide a small income. Each person they help can then share that knowledge with their friends and neighbours, so that in the end the knowledge is shared.

Rachel who looks after plots 271, 272 and 273, her church's community allotments, was not twinned with an identified plot in Kenya, but it is still good to know that with our help families will be able to grow enough to eat, set up small businesses and send their children to school.

For more information see the website

<https://rippleeffect.org/get-involved/individual/garden-twinning/>

Rachel Plots 271, 272 & 273



**Pakistan** - We should also remember those in Pakistan who are going through a terrible tragedy at the moment due to the floods. The big concern now is the disease that follows floods of this magnitude as sanitation systems have been destroyed and these are ideal conditions for malaria.

### Pakistan Flood Facts

- The rainfall in Pakistan this year has been 10 times higher than normal.
- Over 600,000 people are living in relief camps around the country.
- More than 2 million homes have been fully or partially destroyed.
- 4.5 million acres of crops have been destroyed.
- More than a million livestock have been killed.
- The floodwaters increase the threat of water-borne diseases.



They desperately need our help.

Click on the link to donate to the Redcross.

Credit and Thanks for contributions to this Newsletter edition go to:

Carol Hill - article author and researcher;  
Rose Etheridge - Autumn Bulbs  
Geny Foster - Author: Thick Skinned;  
Frances Woodley - Content adviser and contributor;  
David Walpole- All round Yoda  
Sue Wray - Village Show, Events  
Barbara Bream - Village Show author  
Trevor Berry Plot 18 - Mulch, Leek Moth, layout and presentation

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter get in touch.

[westonfavellallotments@gmail.com](mailto:westonfavellallotments@gmail.com)

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Fran Woodley Secretary - [woodley11@virginmedia.com](mailto:woodley11@virginmedia.com);

Treasurer - Ron's retiring with our best wishes.

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