

# The Drooper

*Newsletter of the Lansdowne Allotment Association*

*We trust that this newsletter finds you all well especially through these challenging times of Covid-19. It is great to see many ploholders down on the site observing social distance and working away planting and caring for their plots and as always getting rid of the weeds and with this sunshine means plenty of watering going on. As the covid unlocking eases we mustn't let things slip our hygiene on site is crucial and please read the notice on the gates. The National Allotment association is monitoring Government advice on a regular basis and putting the latest information it has on its web site which can be found at <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/>. Also you will find plenty of other information and tips especially helpful if you are new to growing, can we also extend a welcome to our new plot holders and hope that you enjoy your time on the site.*

## Composting Corner

2020 is halfway through and it's like no other year I have ever known. However, with all the new rules and regulations we have been so pleased to have an allotment. This has been our exercise and good feel activity. Despite the very wet start of the year and following very dry period we have managed to continue to eat well off it.

With regard to composting, I am glad I make so much as I have managed to further my No Dig experiment now in year 3. This year I ordered a trailer load of Farm Cattle manure which I spread on 50 % of my beds leaving on the top for the worms to take down. Then on 25 % beds I spread sheets of thick cardboard and then covered with a layer of my compost. The other 25% was just a thick layer of my compost.

Come spring and planting time it was a good time compare. We had moved from a wet period to a very dry one. The manure had not broken down as I would have liked and dried into lumps. But I managed to plant our potatoes in those beds. The best weed free and best tilth was the cardboard/compost with the all compost a close second despite the hard ground.

Up to now we have planted out Runner and Climbing French Beans, Carrots, Parsnips, Sweetcorn and some Brassicas and Butternut Squashes. It's surprising once you had dug the hole to place the plants there was moisture under the surface.

This year Severn Trent has asked us all to be careful on the water we use. Not to use hoses or sprinklers



and to use watering cans. Which is just as well we have fitted cattle trough type units around the site.

The only times I use water is when I puddle in at planting time. Then when the crop show flower or the pods are swelling in the case of peas and beans. And this only done early morning or better in the evening. This is always at the roots and never over the leaves. The worse is to waste with evaporation.

For the second half of the year I hope the environment will improve and we have weather more suitable for us gardeners and that our crops will thrive, and we can look forward to eating well. Then we can look to filling our Compost heaps again and harvesting ready compost to continue the cycle.

*John Young (Chair)*







## Can You Help Us?

The Association is looking for individuals who can help us. We are keen to speak with anyone who has the following skills clerical and IT / database management. Our site is the largest in Rugby and we need to develop our communications and management of the site such as the waiting lists and plot inspection programme along with the regular (not so regular at the moment) work parties.

Interested want to chat or further information then please contact us through the Facebook page or web site contact form.

## Shop News

Pete at the shop is trialling new ways of operating. You must have the exact money for what you purchase. The hours when operating normally are Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 11am till 12 noon. We will update with further information via our Facebook page Lansdowne Allotment Association (closed group).



## Waiting List & Plots

We now have a waiting list for plots which is great news, but it also means that we must ensure that all plots are being worked and looked after. Please let us know if you cannot carry on or have been self-isolating so have had difficulties maintaining the plot the more information, we have allows to ensure that the site is being used efficiently. It also means we have the income coming in to pay for insurance, water, maintaince etc. If have you decided enough is enough please let us know, we fully understand that not everyone can work allotments and things happen in life that we have no control over.



## Tell us your story

Tell us what you are growing, why you took an allotment and we will publish it in the next edition.

## Facebook Page & Web Site



Reminder we have a closed Facebook group Lansdowne Allotment Association . It is a great way of keeping in touch and our way of letting you know about what is happening. Please sign up and show us what you are doing on your plot.

Our web site can be found at <https://lansdowneallotmentassociation.co.uk/> it has useful information, jobs to do, the policy's for the site.

## Useful Places

- Maddens hardware shop 312-314 Hillmorton Rd, Rugby CV22 5BP, telephone 01788 544282 useful place for everything you may need, from seeds to screws and even the daily paper.
- Barby Nurseries Daventry Rd, Barby, Nr CV23 8TG telephone 01788 890314 also have a web site <https://www.barbynurseries.co.uk/>

