

The Drooper

Newsletter of the Lansdowne Allotment Association

Autumn 2020

Welcome old and new plot holders to our Autumn edition of The Drooper.

We hope your growing season has been going well. What Covid has done is allow us all more time on our plots this year. A walk-through inspection earlier on in the year clearly demonstrated this with the amount of produce growing and many plots are being well used and maintained. We now have a waiting list of over 10 people.

In August we were lucky enough to be part of a special research project in association with Coventry University Centre for Agroecology and Water Resilience (Ryton Organic Site), who are running research into the diversity of wild plants on allotments in Warwickshire. The research is being carried out by April Webb who is a plant ecology intern, you may have seen her on site with her clipboard. Her aim is to assess the contribution of allotments to plant diversity in Warwickshire. It consisted of April undertaking a thorough botanical survey of both the allotment sites 'public' areas (walkways, car parks etc) and within several pre-arranged individual plots of interested holders. New plant species were found not seen on any other allotments taking part in the survey, field pansy being one of these. She was particularly interested in our collection of Drooper Plum trees, which she had not seen anywhere else, we certainly have a special asset and we should value and take care of.



Warwickshire is not performing well on biodiversity and allotments are key to increasing it.

The results of the survey will be shared with us all. April has also agreed to present the results to the Association when her work is complete in the new year, details will be made available nearer the time.

Committee update

The committee has not been meeting on a regular basis because of Covid, but has been communicating regularly via email to discuss important matters. If you do have anything you want raise let us know.



Autumn Compost Corner



Autumn is upon us time to give some attention to our compost . Time to look and see whether we have some dark matter which is usable compost. Start by checking



looking into the inspection hatch, if it's good to use. If you are using 1m cube pallets this is also a good time to make another one alongside. Turn the material in the others working into it. this will recharge them for over wintering. When you find lovely dark matter i.e. compost it's time to use it.

If you now have some empty beds/ground , run a hoe through it and cover with Compost , which will act as a mulch keeping the weeds down and giving your soil nourishment. If you still have some planting to do eg. Garlic, onions, brassica. etc just plant through it.

Bonfires and incinerators

This year we have had a number of enquiries about them. As far as we are concerned we do not use either, all so called waste material is composted one way or another and incorporated around our plot, even Cooch grass and bind weed are put in a waste bin and covered with water. After a month there is no chance of re germination, place it in the bottom of a compost heap. Nothing is wasted. It will all go back on your ground to feed your vegetables.

The burning of waste material has its complications please use an incinerator only where necessary and do not upset your neighbours, we have houses backing onto our plots and with some people who are self isolating and some residents with asthma and breathing problems. The NAS ruling is quite simple. Speak to your neighbours. Only dry material, light one hour before dusk, and you stay with it until its completely finished, do not douse with water use earth to douse. Beware that you do not have a Hedgehog in it. Never on a Windy day. And NO material from home to burn.,never ever use an accelerant i.e. petrol. Good composting makes a valuable material which you can incorporate and improve your soil with for better growth.

John and Sandy Young. Master Composters for Warwickshire



Shop News

Pete has been doing a great job keeping the shop open and Covid safe. You must have the exact money for what you purchase, and please remember your face coverings when inside the shop. The hours when operating normally are Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 11am till 12 noon. We will update with further information via our Facebook page Lansdowne Allotment Association (closed group).



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.

If you are interested and want to chat or ask for further information then please contact us through the Facebook page or web site contact form.

Useful Links and Places

- Compost bins for sale at discount from Warwickshire County Council
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/composting>
- 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/>
- Kings Seeds <https://www.kingsseeds.com/>

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 policies for the site, and much more.

Tell us your story

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

