

North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

Members' Newsletter

January 2017

Previous newsletters and more articles can be found on our websites:
nhaha.org.uk
AND nnr-allotments.org.uk

Third Prize Photo
by Mary Cavanagh



Broad Beans
The variety Aquadulce Claudia can be sown now.

Shallots
These will be in stock when the shops open and can be planted straight away. If we have snow they can be started in pots indoors and planted out as soon as there is a mild spell.

New Year Resolutions



1. Make a plan
2. Prepare plot for new season
3. Sow seeds on time
4. Remove weeds asap
5. Work on plot regularly
6. Organise storage
7. Grow something new
8. Keep plot tidy
9. Find time to help on site

Do any of the above look familiar?

Chitting Potatoes

From late January/ February place your seed potatoes in a tray or shallow box (empty egg cartons are really good) in a cool, bright, frost free position to allow them to sprout. The sprouts usually form at one end (called the rose end). Place the rose end upwards. The sprouts or 'chits' will turn green and the potato will be ready to plant after 6 weeks when the chits are about 2cms. Chitting encourages faster growth and heavier crops once the potatoes are in the ground.



Rubbish Clearance at Tomswood

Just before Christmas two skips were filled with rubbish. The site is now almost free of carpet and generally looks a lot neater. Well done to everyone who cleared their plots and thank you to those of you who helped to clear a large amount of stuff from one or two derelict plots.

TRADING HUTS CLOSED
Re-opening 5th February 2017

Contact the Committee

tomswood_stewards@nhaha.org.uk
new_north_stewards@nhaha.org.uk
31b Tomswood Hill, Barkingside,
Essex IG6 2HL

Terry Byrne

Sadly Terry, our longest serving committee member, passed away on Friday 6th January. Terry's plot was exemplary and over many years he made a huge contribution to the society, particularly the day to day maintenance of the Tomswood Site. Our thoughts are with his wife Jean.

Organic Tips for Winter Months

- * Cover tender plants to protect them from frost damage.
- * Protect bare soil using autumn leaves, netting or fleece.
- * Rhubarb plants will benefit from some leaf-mould and rotted horse manure around and over the crown as a fertilising mulch.

More information on Organic Gardening can be found at:

<http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk>

Perfect Compost

Green Materials
+
Brown Materials
+
Air
+
Water
More information next month

REMINDER: THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE TANKS WILL REMAIN TURNED OFF DURING THE WINTER.

Volunteers Needed

Can you spare some time to help?

HEALTH & SAFETY

Protect yourself from **tetanus** by visiting your doctor for a tetanus injection. Tetanus is caused by bacteria that live in soil and is a very serious infection that can be caught via a cut or even a graze.

Wear suitable **clothing** especially shoes. Toes can be easily damaged with forks and spades! '

Prevent major muscle aches and back strain by working on the allotment 'a little and often'

Carry a **mobile phone**. Although it is nice to be alone at the allotment, it is best to have your phone in the event of an emergency.

Read labels carefully when using any **weed** or **bug killers**. Do not rinse containers in the water tanks.

Keep your plot clear of **trip hazards** and store **sharp objects** safely. This is especially important on paths, as other tenants may walk along the side of your plot to get to theirs.



NNR: In the cage by the shop
Tomswood: In the Ladies Toilet & the Eco Loo

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