

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

TRADING HUTS OPEN Sundays

10am to 12 noon

If you have not visited your allotment shop yet, please make some time to come along one Sunday morning. You can buy many items for your allotment ... look on the website for a list of items that are for sale. If you can't make it on a Sunday and you see a committee member on site, they may be able to open the shop for you.



Spring at the Allotments

April is one of the busiest times of the year for vegetable gardeners. Seeds need to be sown both outdoors and in ... plants need to be nurtured ... the ground needs to be prepared ... and the weather needs to be watched! Don't be fooled by sunny, warm spells at this time of year. We can still have night frosts that can wipe out tender plants. I remember one year when we had frost on 3rd June and many plot-holders lost all their tomato plants. Protect tender plants with fleece or polythene. Cloches are a great way of protecting plants that are vulnerable. These can be made quite easily from wire or from plastic pipes and covered in polythene. Materials can be purchased in the allotment shops. Ask for help if you are not sure what to do.



The Garden Plot

A few people have started work on the new Garden Plot at Tomswood. So far we have cleared a lot of the broken glass and other rubbish around the site and planted a few shrubs around the border near the fence. We intend to let the area grass over this year and then we can slowly mark out areas for further planting, a seating area, pergola and pathways. If you would like to be involved either in a practical or advisory capacity, please don't hesitate to get in touch. It is our intention to develop the area for all to enjoy.



REMINDER 1 ...The water in the dipping tanks is to be used for watering plants. ONLY watering cans are to be dipped into these tanks. If you wash your tools, hands, face, feet, shoes or anything else in these tanks, you are **contaminating the water!**

REMINDER 2 ... The water on the allotment sites is **not** drinking water.

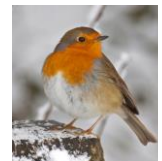
Wildlife at the Allotment - Birds

We have a large number of birds visiting the allotment sites and nesting in the various trees and bushes.

As a vegetable grower you may find some of the birds a nuisance at various times of the year – when they strip your currant bushes of fruit before you get a chance to pick the fruit yourself, or when they demolish your young cabbage plants!

One of my favourite birds on my plot is the robin. It doesn't destroy my crops and keeps me company when I am digging. How do you feel about the birds you encounter on your plot?

How many different types of bird have you seen on site? Do you notice? Can you name the birds in the three pictures below – too easy? See how many different birds you can spot this year. We will be compiling a list on the website.



[Watch Your Back 2017](#)



The National Allotment Society will be supporting this important campaign from the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Research Fund, to encourage gardeners to protect themselves against the damaging effects of spending too much time in the sun. Campaign launches 1 May 2017.

Allotment Facts

- By tradition, the rent for British allotments is due on St Michaelmas Day which is on 29th September.
- In the UK, the size of allotment plots is measured in "rods"... One rod equals 25.29 square metres.
- There are currently around 300,000 allotments in Britain.

Contact the Committee

Email: tomswood_stewards@nhaha.org.uk
new_north_stewards@nhaha.org.uk

31b Tomswood Hill, Barkingside, Essex IG6 2HL



Volunteers Always Needed
Can you spare some time to help?



Next Newsletter May 2017