

JAA NEWSLETTER

committee@jubileeallotments.co.uk

July 2018

JAA Summer BBQ Sunday 5 August

The team are asking plot holders to help with providing BBQs and also prizes for a raffle. It's a great opportunity to chat to everyone who you normally only wave at! Children are of course very welcome and we're hoping to bring back welly wanging. We're happy to announce that prices will remain as last year's



Advance

Adult £7; Child £3.50;
Family ticket: £18

On the Day

Adult £8; Child ticket £4.50

Contact: Vicky Newell on
vickyc.newell@btinternet.com

Inspections

These continue throughout the season to be carried out monthly. In general, we belong to a well cultivated allotment and should you receive a letter from the committee, then please respond to help them understand the situation.

If using weed killer please restrict use to your own plot not on communal areas. Use these products with great care, preferably on a cloudy, still day and ensure that it doesn't affect neighbouring plots.

Data Protection Document

Around 40 plot holders have yet to complete and return the GDPR document, which has been emailed to all.

If you have not complied over the next month, then you will receive a further email to say that it is assumed by the Committee that you have agreed for the JAA to hold and process your details securely and still receive communications, unless we're told otherwise. This email will include an unsubscribe-type message.

Maintenance Morning

Our next Maintenance Morning is Sunday 29 July at 10.00–12.00, with the usual jobs including mowing, strimming, tidying etc. This is followed by tea, coffee, cake and a catch-up chat.

You are asked to remember that all plot holders are required to keep tidy all the pathways surrounding their plots, eg removing long grass, nettles, thistles, etc and cuttings should be removed from the path/communal area as this clogs the mowers. These mornings are about maintaining the communal areas for the benefit of all plot holders not just coming and working on their plots!

All this is a tremendous help with managing the site — *'many hands make light work'*.

Look forward to seeing you there.

HDAF Allotment Show 19 August 2018



Plans for the 2018 HDAF Allotment Competition (in collaboration with the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show) have now

been finalised and you are encouraged to enter. This year it's called 'REACH FOR THE STARS' – tallest plant in a pot; photos to be submitted by 10 August to HDAF.

The details of the competition and how to enter are attached.

The lucky winner will receive a pair of afternoon tea hospitality tickets to this year's Harrogate Autumn Flower Show and will be awarded a trophy at the HDAF Show on 19th August.

Jubilee Allotments have been asked to run the book stall, so we are asking for your help to do this. We require people to man the stall on the day (mainly in the afternoon) for hour slots. If you can help, please contact Vicky on vickyc.newell@btinternet.com.

ALERT — Asparagus Beetle

Asparagus beetle has been found on the allotment site and will undoubtedly spread.

Asparagus beetle is a widespread and sometimes damaging insect on asparagus during the summer months. It is inevitable that it will spread as the adult beetles can fly and are very adept at locating patches of asparagus.



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Eggs



Larvae

The Committee's advice is not to plant any new asparagus, if you have some monitor it carefully and best thing would be to remove and cautiously burn remains of infested plants.

Plants affected are Vegetable asparagus, but not the Ornamental asparagus species.

About – The beetles emerge from overwintering sites in May and June and lay elongate black eggs that are attached to the asparagus spears and foliage. The creamy greyish-black larvae emerge within a week (up to 1cm when grown) and begin to move upward as the plant grows, feeding as they go.

After a couple of weeks intense feeding, they fall to the ground where they pupate for a week. Then the adult beetles crawl from the soil and the cycle begins again.

In the autumn, adult beetles seek sheltered places where they overwinter.

Control – When seen, hand pick the beetles, eggs and larvae from plants and destroy.

Inspect spears as soon as they emerge for adults mating and laying eggs. Wipe away any eggs from the spears.

Birds and beneficial insects, especially ladybirds and lacewing, will consume the eggs and small larvae. For bad infestations, introduce beneficial nematodes to your patch. These microscopic soil organisms will destroy asparagus beetle pupae in the ground.

As a last resort, spot treat adult beetles with botanical insecticides.

You can spray with pyrethrum; both pyrethrin and malathion can be used without causing serious harm to beneficial insects. These chemicals are short-acting, lasting only a few days, but potent (eg Bug Clear Gun for Fruit & Veg, Pyrol Bug & Larvae Killer or Defenders Bug Killer, ecofective Bug Killer). Various insecticides are licensed for control, and the parasitic wasp *Tetrastichus asparagi* Crawford has been successfully used for biological control.

Plants in flower should not be sprayed to avoid harming bees and other pollinating insects. Parsley, basil and marigolds are said to be good companions for asparagus, helping to deter the beetles.

After harvest remove old dead stems, dispose of them and turn the soil over around plants to prevent adults over-wintering. Pay attention to the margins around your asparagus patch.

Burning old stems at the end of the year may destroy some overwintering beetles.

The good news is that light infestations are unlikely to affect cropping in subsequent years.

Overhanging Branches and Vegetation from Neighbouring Plots onto Your Plot

Talk to your fellow plot holders in the first instance if you have any concerns about branches or vegetation encroaching on your plot from someone else's. Having a chat with your neighbour is the best way to come to an agreement about what to do – please don't just chop a branch or plant down without consulting with your neighbour first.

As plot holders we shouldn't plant any trees or shrubs so as to obstruct plots, paths, roadways or cause excessive shading to any other plot holder. If there are any issues, please let the committee know.

Heatwave and Water

As you all knew when you first took on your plots at Jubilee, there is no mains water supply and plot holders are encouraged to be self-sufficient. Since Vicky has been responsible for plot allocation, this has been made clear to new plot holders when they sign up. A few original plot holders may have understood that there was some likelihood of a water supply being installed at some point. However, through working with the council and extensive research by the committee over the years, this has been ruled out.

The committee has investigated on numerous occasions the options for providing water on site and have tried many different

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approaches with the Council. The original assumption was to tap into the water main in the road but after comprehensive investigations, this was ruled out on the grounds of cost and loss of water pressure to domestic users on the road.

Only last year an in-depth survey was carried out again by the committee in conjunction with an expert in this field into the options for drilling bore holes and into the costs and repercussions of piping mains water to the site. Again, the expense, which would have had to be passed on to plot holders in the form of rent hikes, and the logistics of such ventures have ruled these options unviable.

So, it is up to individuals to be canny and resourceful.

We have been encouraging plot holders to install rain gathering equipment such as water butts and IBCs on their sheds and greenhouses since the site was first established. As mentioned in our previous newsletters, we still have available water barrels and a couple of IBCs. These we purchased for plot holders to buy in readiness for water gathering over the autumn, winter and spring so that you can have a plentiful supply for times such as now. We can help you with any installation advice and getting them onto your plot.

The Committee worked hard to install communal water stations for those with no water storage on their plots but these are now dry or have been left turned on.

A few ways to maximise the water you do have is to water in the cool of the day, morning and evening if possible and don't bother watering potatoes and other hardy stuff.

Wasps

We aren't the only ones to welcome warmer weather - wasps do too. When queen wasps emerge from winter hibernation, their mission is to find a suitable place to build their new nests. Among their favoured locations are sheds and holes in the ground.

To build the nest, the queen wasp needs fresh wood which she chews, shreds and mixes with saliva to create a papier-mache like material. Fence panels, sheds, gates and wooden window frames are all ideal.

Obviously, once the wasps have hatched and are flying about, you should be able to notice if they're going to and from the same place.

Wasps don't return to the same place again once the wasps have died off in the autumn.

Treatment

One of the most effective treatments you can use is drenching the nest with an insecticide spray specifically formulated for wasps. These are available at your local DIY store.

No matter which type of spray you use, follow the instructions. You should be properly prepared with long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, and goggles or a safety mask. Check wind direction (you want it behind you) so that the spray doesn't come back at you.

Stand as far away from the nest as possible and start by spraying the area around it. Then create a steady stream of the spray and fully drench the nest. As you see wasps start to fly out, try to spray as many as you can.

Once you're certain all the wasps are gone, knock down the nest and destroy it if possible, then be sure to clean everything up. If you aren't able to remove the nest, you'll need to spray it for the next two weeks to ensure that any immature wasps are killed before they're able to mature and re-start the infestation.

Remaining Event Days 2018 for your Diaries

- 29 July – Maintenance Morning
- 5 August – Annual Summer BBQ
- 19 August – HDAF Allotment Show
- 9 September – JAA Autumn Show and Maintenance Morning
- 7 October – Maintenance Morning
- 4 November – Bonfire and Pumpkin Competition and Maintenance Morning.

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HARROGATE AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT FEDERATION

2018 HDAF / Harrogate Autumn Flower Show's Allotment Competition

Reach for the Stars!

It's time to get your plot growing upwards as we welcome this year's allotment competition, in association with Harrogate Autumn Flower Show. We're asking plot holders to plant up and get growing in a container with an imaginative support, fashioned from anything around the allotment, to create the highest plant or climber possible. It could be a giant sunflower, or a wigwam of runner beans – either way, it should really 'Reach for the Stars!'

The competition is open to allotment holders in the Harrogate District and should include a container no higher than 40cm – the rest is for plant growth only!

The height attained will be a key factor - measurement will be taken from the base of the plant stem. But also taken into consideration will be your resourcefulness finding a suitable container, in constructing the plant supports and how well it serves its purpose [colourful / productive]. The lucky winner will receive a pair of afternoon tea hospitality tickets to this year's Harrogate Autumn Flower Show!

To enter, please submit a photo of your plant in a pot with an 8' cane positioned on the top of the pot near the base of the stem. On the back of the photo, give the height of the plant measured from the base of the stem to the top of the plant together with your name and allotment site. Entries should be submitted to Angela Dicken, 74 Otley Road, Harrogate HG2 0DP by Friday 10th August. The entries will be judged by Nick Smith, Show Director of the Harrogate Flower Shows.