

MAIDSTONE ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

TENANCY AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS

Enclosed with your invoice [please pay by required date] are some necessary additions/ amendments to the Tenancy Agreement. Please read them. It is so important that we all work according to the Agreement; the rules are vital for the safety and correct management of our sites. Pretty much all plotholders do but we have recently had to address some who have not. If you are unsure of what is allowed please contact us. (see contact details to the right).

AGM

The Committee is considering a date for this, having obviously not been able to hold one last year or earlier this year. Concern regarding social distancing/covid remain. The accounts for 2020/21 are on site notice boards - or will be shortly. Also on the website. Again, any queries please contact us through Jo at the email address to the right.

WELCOME

Another very challenging allotment year with continuing Covid issues and weather very different to last year. Weed growth has been more prolific than for many years. Sadly we have lost some allotment friends. But how fortunate we all are to be able to work on our plots - exercise, camaraderie and of course growing our own vegetables and fruit. We welcome our new plotholders; they are delighted to have a plot and are making great progress.

Our best method of communication is by email - speedy and no cost.

Please advise us if you change your email address, home address and/or phone number.

To make sure that our emails don't get caught in your spam/junk filter, please add

admin@maidstoneallotments.co.uk

to your address book

Office hours - Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Frid
9.30am - 2.30pm

01622 664528

Judith

Chair



ISSUES

* We are concerned that children are sometimes allowed to run around the site, on other plots, tracks or car parking areas. They must remain on your plot and under your supervision at all times, there are hidden dangers on sites.

As in the Tenancy Agreement.

* Number your plot.

* Look at the Tenancy Agreement and adhere to rules.

* Keep working in Autumn and Winter to prepare your plot for Spring planting.

* Keep grass paths around your plot cut at all times.

* Carefully compost your annual weeds, etc (not bindweed or ground elder) in a compost bin. Don't dump them in piles on your plot. A bin can easily be constructed with wooden pallets, freely available. Or plastic bins can be purchased. But please shake off the precious soil first. You will have good free compost the following year or soon after. Again advice is available.

COMPETITIONS

We will be arranging them again next year. We know they are always popular and good fun. And there will be awards and a social evening to present those.

NATURE

The encouragement of pollinators through having small areas of wild flowers has been hugely successful. Butterflies, varieties of bees and wasps, ladybirds and dragonflies; so many other insects will arrive to help us.

We are not so welcoming to aphids but they have a job to do too.

If you feel the need to use a weedkiller, hopefully not, please ensure that it does not go on grass paths or other plots. Never use on a windy day. Slugs and snails can also be controlled in other ways. Please ask us if you are unsure - poison is best avoided.

We see some splendid plots, although blight has taken out potatoes and tomatoes on most sites.

If your's are affected please ensure every leaf, stem or fruit is securely put into bags and removed from site, not on your compost heap.

On designated/agreed areas only, a small wildlife pond is possible. Frogs can be ground helpers - to control slugs and snails. A good natural way. Our wildlife are so precious in this changing world. Slow worms are protected - they do look a little like small snakes. If you see them - they are always under cover - advise us and we will explain safe moving of them, if that is needed - we hope not.

If netting your plot to keep birds out, and protect those vegetables that tempt them, please ensure it is carefully tied down. We have seen some precious birds trapped, which is very distressing.

GLUTS

Beans and courgettes are probably the only ones this year! Google - "glut recipes". Other web sites are available!

