



Eastney and Milton Allotment Holders Association

The Plot Thickens Newsletter No. 53

Allotment News

Firstly, and most importantly, a heartfelt 'Thank You' from the Committee and plot holders to Carole Bannister for all her hard work and contribution over many, many years. Carole first published "The Plot Thickens" newsletter in 2004 and, after 52 editions, has decided to step back from editing it. Carole's contribution has been invaluable; leaving a legacy that we will continue to develop. I hope you enjoy edition No.53.

Dates for the diary:

August 5th - Tool Sale (in shop)

See what John and Geoff have got available. Availability is strictly first come first served.

August 13th – 19th – National Allotment Week

This year's theme is 'Living and Growing' and highlights the importance of growing your own food.

August 22nd –Committee Meeting

Want to raise something? Please use the contact form on the website homepage, drop a note into the Shop or the Post Box outside the shop.

September 2nd - Autumn Show

See posters for more details. Get the kids involved with the junior categories. Light refreshments available. Raffle prizes to be won.

These dates are also on the website under the events section. Please check for new things being added.

Eastney & Milton Allotment Holders Association

Monday, May 16, 2005
Issue 5

The Plot Thickens...

This month's articles...

- Introduction
- Allotment News
- Caption Competition
- Chairman's Chatter

Introduction to issue 5

Hopefully all your plants are growing well now after plenty of rain and lots of sunshine! Unfortunately, all the weeds are growing too!

Allotment News

Don't forget the Plant Sale on Sunday 22nd May!

Despite the dry weather, the whole allotment site is looking amazing. Hopefully you've all got some potential entries for the Autumn Show earmarked. Entry forms are available from the shop or online.

We do need some able-bodied volunteers to help put up a few of the smaller tents on the Friday evening or Saturday morning for an hour or so. As this is a smaller show we are not using the largest tents. Please let us know if you can help via the contact form on the website or the shop. Joyce will be providing bacon butties on Saturday morning (weather permitting).

Di, Editor

Updates from Committee Shedquarters:

Despite the late snow and then the heat of May there was an amazing range of plants available for the Plant Sale. The sale would not have been such a success without the help and support of all the volunteers. In particular:

- John and Trevor for growing such an amazing variety of plants
- Everyone who manned the different stalls
- Joyce and her daughter for bacon rolls, Helen and Diane for the cakes, teas and coffees



The National Allotment Society need contact details for all Association Members due to an insurance policy they are offering as part of membership. The Committee are contacting as many members as possible.

As there was no Autumn Show last year, we are coming back with something smaller than previous years as new committee members learn the ropes. Responsibility for different aspects of its organisation will be taken on by Committee members.

The Association Committee

David Attenborough wants your help!

There's still time to get the kids or grandkids involved in the [Big Butterfly Count 2018](#).

Running to the 12th of August, this is a nationwide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment.

Launched in 2010, it has rapidly become the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 60,000 people took part in 2017, submitting 62,500 counts of butterflies and day-flying moths from across the UK.

The exercise involves spending 15 minutes counting butterflies and submitting the sightings [online](#).

News from the PCC Allotment Inspector:

A few important reminders for everyone:

- Allotments are being inspected every 4-5 weeks.
- Please ensure your plot are clearly numbered so there is no confusion if 'dirty plot' letters need to be sent out.
- Please do not dump any unwanted items on vacant or other people's plots or in the car parks. The cost of clearing any rubbish is significant. Anyone caught doing this is a fly-tipper and will be prosecuted.
- Please ensure all paths between plots are clear and maintained.
- Fires are not permitted on the site – ignoring this rule may result in a loss of your allotment tenancy.
- If you move house, please remember to update the City Council Allotment Office with your new address.
- The Council does not share plot holder's names and addresses with any third party – this includes the Eastney and Milton Allotment Holders Association (and vice versa). So you must ensure both organisations have the correct contact details.
- You may notice red and white posts in certain places on Milton Piece. These mark drainage points that need to be kept clear.

Di

Ashley

PLEASE KEEP THE GATES SHUT AND LOCKED AT ALL TIMES

It is really important for the safety of those children who spend more time on the site with parents and grandparents during the summer holidays. It is also essential for general site security.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of thefts of equipment and vegetables from different plots over the last couple of months with damage to sheds and greenhouses. Any theft, no matter how small should be reported to the police on the 101.

The only exception are the main gates when the onsite shop is open – Sunday and Tuesday from 9:30am – 11:30am. The shop staff will unlock and then re-lock the gates.

The Committee

Top Tips: B is for Black Fly

Everyone is talking about Black Fly on the beans this year, there is much more than usual. It is usually dealt with by a spray with soapy water and then the ladybirds soon take care of the rest.

We have been trying the old remedy of a bucket of water with comfrey leaves and nettles steeped in it, together with a couple of cloves of garlic. Leave this for about 3 days then strain and spray on. If it has really taken hold then a jet of water trained on the flies helps (if you can get any pressure on the hose). If this doesn't work, then rub the flies off with your fingers - not a nice job but worth it.

Some people have taken their beans up and started again, it has got so bad. If sown now you may get a crop into the Autumn. If you are not trying to be organic, then a spray of bug clear at the beginning of the season will also do the trick.

Carole



We have wonderful volunteers who help out in the onsite shop all year. Without their time and support we couldn't provide this facility to our members.

So a huge thank you to:

Annie, Christine, Doreen, Joyce, Liz, Lorraine, Mary, Sally, Trish, Geoff, John, Keith, Mike and Pete D

We couldn't do it without you!

Helen

Recipe suggestion: Pelargonium-scented strawberry jam

Adding scented pelargonium (geranium) leaves to the jam, as the Greeks often do, enhances the flavour. If you can't find them, adding black pepper is a delicious alternative – it cuts the sweetness of the jam.

Makes 2 x 450g jars

- 900g fresh strawberries, hulled
- 4 scented pelargonium leaves, or a good grinding of black pepper
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 900g granulated sugar, warmed in the oven

Place a saucer in the fridge, ready for when you come to test for setting point later on.



Put the strawberries and pelargonium leaves (or pepper) into a large, heavy-based, stainless steel pan and use a potato-masher to squash the fruit slightly. Don't push too hard - you just want some of the fruit to release a little juice, not to be completely flattened.

Stir in the lemon juice and bring to the boil for 2-3 minutes. Stir in the sugar and boil for another 10-15 minutes. Remove the leaves. Pull the pan off the heat and test for setting point.

Take the saucer from the fridge and place a teaspoonful of the jam on it. When cool, it should wrinkle when you push it with your finger. Or use a jam thermometer here; when it reaches 104-105°C, the mixture will set.

Cool slightly and pour into a dry, warm, sterilised jars (you can sterilise them in a very hot dishwasher, or boil them in a pan of water for 10 minutes). Cover with a wax disc, then seal and label with the date. This jam will last for several years. Once opened, store in the fridge.

Tip: Don't make strawberry jam in huge batches; it's harder to get it to set, and with endless boiling you lose the freshness of the flavour.

This recipe features on p225 of Sarah Raven's Food for Friends and Family Cookbook and [online](#).

Julie



Watering:

Everything is looking a little dry and our water butts are empty. Watering is most effective using a watering can as this directs water straight to where it's needed. Please remember that everyone would like to take a turn using the taps.

The Committee

Have you seen BBC2's Gardeners' World?

Adam Frost interviewed HRH the Prince of Wales about plant health and biosecurity, and Monty Don promoted the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) "Don't Risk it!" campaign.

It's currently targeted at holiday makers may want to bring plants and seeds back in to the UK from their travels abroad.

The olive industry, valued at 10's of millions of Euro, has been devastated particularly in Italy by Xylella fastidiosa, a disease of South American origin, thought to have been brought into Europe on coffee plants from South America.

For more information, take a look at [DEFRA's Plant Health Portal](#).

Please don't bring plants or flowers back into the UK.



They can carry pests and diseases that would destroy UK plants and crops.

Always buy from a UK garden centre or supplier.



For more information search for Defra's Plant Health Portal

Need help over the holidays?

Don't forget the Allotment Buddies Scheme.

Support can vary depending on your requirements – maybe one-off help or continuous support e.g. planting and sowing.

Based at the Community Allotment on Milton Piece (down the tarmac track from the Shop towards the toilets and Langstone Harbour).

Anyone interested in the scheme can either contact Gail directly:

023 9289 2022

Gail.baird@johnpoundscentre.co.uk

Pick up a leaflet from the shop, or visit the community allotment at Milton Piece on a Wednesday afternoon – 12.30-3pm.

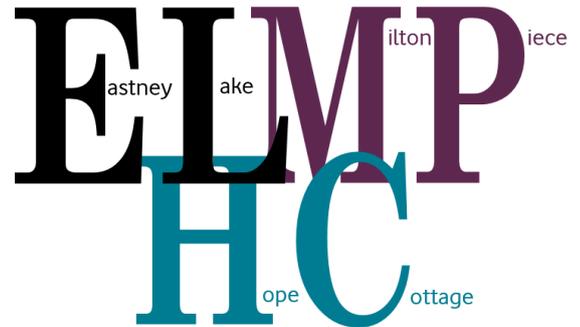
Di

Liz

Want to join the Allotment Association, enter the Autumn Show or use the onsite shop?

Pop along to the on-site shop on either Sunday or Tuesday mornings to renew your membership for 2018. The cost remains at £4.50, the same as last year, as agreed at the AGM in January.

Trish



Eastney & Milton Allotment Holders Association 2018 Committee Members:

Chairman – Les

Secretary – Liz

Finance Secretary – Trevor

Membership Secretary – Trish

Trading Manager – Joyce

Website Manager – Di

Committee Member – Helen

(manages shop volunteer rota)

Committee Member – Dianne

Committee Member – Michael

Committee Member – Rose

Committee Member – Anne

Please check our website for new information, events, and updates. We will also be sending more regular emails to our members in addition to newsletters and posters on noticeboards. Please check that we have your email address.

Contributors: Carole, the Association Committee, Ashley, Liz, Trish, Julie and Helen. **Template and Design:** Di

www.eastneyandmiltonallotmentassociation.co.uk