

Eastney and Milton Allotment Holders Association

The Plot Thickens Newsletter No. 54

Updates from Committee Shedquarters:



We must start with a huge **Thank You** to Christine – an amazing volunteer and true unsung hero of the allotment site.

Christine has taken on the responsibility for keeping the on-site ladies and gents toilets immaculately clean for that last 10 years but has decided to 'retire' from the role. On behalf of all plot-holders, the Committee thanks Christine for everything she has done, her contribution to has been very much appreciated.

The Autumn Show

Thank you to everyone whose efforts made the Autumn Show on 3rd September such a success – all of you who entered or attended, all who bought raffle tickets, all who baked cakes and all who helped the Association Committee set up the tents and the show ground and then take it all down again. The amazing weather was a real bonus – it felt more like a summer show.



50 Association members submitted 180 entries across 56 of the 67 classes. It was great to see a number of amazing exhibits in the Junior categories.

The judge from the Hampshire Horticultural Society was very impressed with all the entries and took his time checking, measuring and weighing to make sure he picked the best. He also made suggestions about splitting some calluses and adding others for next year's Show Schedule. As well as some hints and tips for showing your fruit and veg.

'Thank you' to Nick, Roger, Barry, Les, Kate, Sarah, Brian, Mary, Jill, Simon, Anthea, for helping the Committee put on such a successful event – many apologies if we've forgotten to name someone.

Congratulations to all the winners – a full list can be found later in the newsletter and more photos are on the [website](#). There are still some certificates to be collected from the shop. We look forward to another successful show next year.

The Association Committee

Dates for the diary:

October 7th - Tool Sale

Need any (pre-loved) tools? New to the allotment? Come and see what's available in the shop.

October 14th - Blackmoor Apple Day

Blackmoor Estate's famous Apple Tasting Day has been running for 48 years. Located in Liss, free entry, see their website for location and more details.



October 17th – 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.

October 28th - Children's Pumpkin Display

Getting ready for Halloween? Come and display your carved pumpkins outside the shop. From 9.30am - 11.30am.

November 4th - Tool Sale (in shop)

November 28th – Committee Meeting

See the [website](#) for more events before the end of the year.



Seed orders

The 2019 Kings Seeds catalogues are available in the shop. We have plenty, so stop by and pick up a copy.

Please drop your orders and payment into the shop by 11.30am on Sunday 23rd October. Sorry – no card payments.

One for the kids...an orange bird feeder

You will need:

An orange, some bird seed, a skewer, some string and a grown-up to help.

1. Chop orange in half and remove the contents (save as a snack for later) so you're just left with 2 empty halves.
2. Make holes using a skewer in the sides of the oranges. Be very careful doing this. Thread the string through the holes and secure with knots.
3. Add the bird seed into the orange.
4. Find a tree, shed roof or post to hang the feeder from.



Joyce

Your top tips needed for our new plot holders!

We have new members joining the association throughout the year as they are allocated their allotment after a 3.5/4 year wait. They all need some good advice to get them going and we would love to hear from you.

What was the best advice you were given? What do you wish you'd been told? What have you learnt?

Please email us, complete the contact form on the [website](#), or drop a note in the Suggestion Box outside the shop. We'll publish all the ideas as I'm sure we'll all learn something.

The Committee

News from the PCC Allotment Inspector:

It's invoice time of year coming up. If you do not intend to renew, please call or email the Council as soon as possible, so they can reallocate the plot quickly:

023 9268 8070 or allotments@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If you do intend to renew, please send your payment through promptly. Plots will be repossessed if payments are not received by the due date.

Thank you in anticipation of your assistance with this.

Ashley

Did you know...

Don't dig up the roots when you pick cabbages. If you cut a cross with a knife in the top of the stalk, you will get a second crop of leaves. They are much smaller but they are really tasty.

John

Important - Glyphosate update from the RHS

Recently, a jury in the USA awarded damages against agrochemical manufacturer Monsanto over the use of weed killer containing glyphosate and its possible links with cancer.

Following on from this, the RHS has reviewed and updated its use and statements on the chemical.

See www.rhs.org.uk/glyphosate



Measure your harvest

MYHarvest is your opportunity to participate in a citizen science research project run by the University of Sheffield, the National Allotment Society and other partners to estimate the contribution people who grow their own fruit and vegetable crops are making to UK national food production.

The team want as many members of the public as possible who are growing food on allotments and in gardens across the UK to help them understand the yield of typical UK staple fruit and vegetable crops. By providing the size of land you use and the weight of the crops you harvest, you will be contributing to a first national estimate of own-grown food production and helping to understand how much allotment and garden space is needed in the future.

So far growers have already submitted over 10,000 harvest, weighing 35 tonnes. The most harvested crops were potatoes (5.4T), courgettes (3.8T), apples (2.1T), tomatoes (1.7T) and broad beans (1.6T). It is really easy to take part – for details on how to join up, recording sheets and much more information go to www.myharvest.org.uk.

Di

Things to do in October/November...

Everyone has their own plan and schedules, a lot determined by the weather, but a number of members have asked us to include some reminders and suggestions. So are some ideas:

- Large rhubarb plants can be dug up and split into several pieces with a spade. Replant the healthiest looking ones to start a whole new clump.
- Peas and beans that have gone over can be cut down to ground level, and their roots left in the soil to be dug over – they then break down and return vital nitrogen to the earth.
- Cut down the dying tops of other perennial vegetables. Remove yellowing leaves from Brussels Sprouts plants and other brassicas to prevent the spread of disease and dispose of them.
- Sow broad beans this month for good early pickings in May and June next year.
- Cut back Jerusalem artichokes and asparagus to ground level. After cutting the asparagus ferns, carefully weed the bed and cover with a layer of mulch or manure.
- Cover any productive salad plants with cloches or fleece to protect from the frosts.
- Earth up leeks to cover and blanch their stems.
- Make sure Brussels sprouts are firm in the ground as wind-rock breaks the tiny hairs on the roots that take in nutrients. Earthing up a few inches around the stems and tread down well, or staking will help.
- If you haven't already done so, net your brassicas as they will be under attack as other food becomes scarce.
- Plant out onions, shallots and garlic – the winter chill helps the bulbs develop. Available in the allotment shop.
- Manure your potato beds ready for spring planting.
- Sow Sweet Peas indoors in Oct/Nov. in root trainers, small pots or the cardboard inners of loo rolls. Keep young plants in a cold frame, shed or unheated greenhouse over winter.
- Clear away stakes and other supports from vegetable beds as they could harbour overwintering pests.
- Remove spent summer veg from the greenhouse and give it a good clean, including the glass. During autumn and winter, you want maximum light penetration.
- Top up your compost bins as you tidy your plot before winter – though not with diseased plant material (unless you have a hot compost bin). If an open topped compost bin, it's a good idea to cover it to prevent the content becoming waterlogged over the winter.
- Apply ready compost as mulch to beds – it helps protect against weed growth and the worms will pull it into the soil through the winter.
- Dig over beds as you clear the last of your autumn harvests. Frost and cold weather often helps to break down any large clods of soil in to smaller, more free draining particles, ready for spring.
- In October, sow green manure such as rye, vetches, or ryegrass on beds you're not using over winter. This improves soil fertility and structure, reduces weed growth and supports wildlife. Dig it into the ground from February. Alternatively cover the bed in black plastic (available in the allotment shop).
- If you have a pond, remove some of the leaf litter to prevent build-up of silt and de-oxygenation of the water.
- Leave some windfall apples and pears on the ground for the birds – it may discourage them from other things on your plot.

But if the weather is really bad then we recommend a comfy chair, a hot drink and a copy of the seed catalogue.

The Committee

Autumn Show winners - well done for all your hard work:

Show Schedule Classes		Trophy (where applicable)	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	Highly Commended
	Vegetables					
1	Longest Traditional Runner Bean	-	Les Steadman	-	-	-
2	Longest Carrot	Elena Baynham Trophy	No entrants	-	-	-
3	Longest Parsnip	-	Tania Bastow	-	-	-
4	Heaviest Cabbage	-	No entrants	-	-	-
5	Heaviest Onion	Ernie Butler Cup	Trevor Stark	-	-	-
6	Heaviest 3 Onions	John Langley Cup	Dave Farmer & Trevor Stark		-	-
7	Heaviest Marrow	The Secretary's Trophy	Gordon Lowe	-	-	-
8	Heaviest Truss of Tomatoes	David Piercy Tankard	Mo Ottesen	-	-	-
9	Heaviest Pumpkin	Steve Gunn Challenge Shield	Michael Wake	-	-	-
10	Most potatoes in a 9" pot	-	No entrants	-	-	-
11	Most Tomatoes on One Truss	-	Geoff Collinge	-	-	-
12	Top Tray – Competition Rules Apply	-	Trevor Stark	-	-	-
13	Best Bucket of Compost	E&MAHA Tankard	Trevor Stark	Stephen Rogers	Sue Nugent	-
14	Three Carrots – With 7.5cm of leaf stalk	-	Geoff Collinge	Rosie Dean	Tony Shuker	-
15	Three Beetroot – With 7.5cm of leaf stalk	-	Mary Simmons	Trevor Stark	Dorothy Seymour	-
16	Three Parsnips – With 7.5cm of leaf stalk	-	No entrants	-	-	-
17	Five Coloured Potatoes	-	Mary Simmons	Trevor Stark	John Caws	-
18	Five White Potatoes	-	Sue Nugent	Emily Pountney	Mo Ottesen	-
19	Five Onions	-	Emily Pountney	Trevor Stark	Dorothy Seymour	-
20	Three Cobs of Sweetcorn	-	Mo Ottesen	-	-	-
21	Five Cherry Type Tomatoes	-	Trevor Stark	Mo Ottesen	Mary Simmons	Rosie Dean
22	Five Beefsteak Type Tomatoes	-	Mo Ottesen	-	-	-
23	Five Exhibition Type Tomatoes	-	Mary Simmons	Liz Kern	John Caws	-
24	Two Cucumbers	-	Lorraine Lindsey	Mo Ottesen	Terry Crook	-
25	Nine Runner Beans	Robin Wilson Cup	Geoff Collinge	Rosie Dean	Mo Ottesen	-
26	Three Leeks	Welshman Trophy	Tania Bastow	-	-	-
27	Two Cabbages	-	No entrants	-	-	-
28	Two Table Marrows	-	Sydney Dooley	-	-	-
29	Three Squashes	-	Rosie Dean	Sydney Dooley	Geoff Collinge	-
30	Three Courgettes	-	Geoff Collinge	Emily Pountney	Terry Crook	-
31	Three Peppers or Chillies	-	Helen Bodkin	Trevor Stark	Mary Simmons	Mo Ottesen
32	Five Shallots	-	No entrants	-	-	-
33	Three heads of Garlic	-	Sue Nugent	-	-	-
34	Vase (max ht. 15cm) of three different fresh herbs	-	Mo Ottesen	Sue Nugent	Michael Wade	-
35	Any Other Vegetable - as RHS Rules	-	Tania Bastow	Terry Crook	Trevor Stark	-
36	Best Container of Vegetables may contain some fruit	The Skate Trophy	Mo Ottesen	-	-	-
37	Spare	-	-	-	-	-

	Fruit					
38	Three Dessert Apples	Anne & Peter Wright Farewell Bowl	Jan Blemmings	Terry Crook	Geoff Collinge	-
39	Three Culinary Apples	-	No entrants	-	-	-
40	Three Pears	-	Rachel Webb	Liz Kern	Rosie Dean	-
41	Ten Raspberries	-	Tania Bastow	Jan Blemmings	Rosie Dean	-
42	Twenty Blackberries	-	No entrants	-	-	-
43	Any Other Fruit – As RHS Rules	-	Terry Crook	-	-	-
	Flowers					
44	Single Dahlia Bloom	Brian Whitehouse Cup	Dorothy Seymour	Terry Crook	Trevor Stark	Kate Angus
45	Three Dahlia Blooms – Ball or Pompom	-	Terry Crook	Dorothy Seymour	-	-
46	Three Dahlia Blooms – Other than Ball or Pompom	-	Terry Crook	Trevor Stark	Mo Ottesen	-
47	Three Chrysanthemum Blooms	-	No entrants	-	-	-
48	Three Gladiolus	-	Trevor Stark	-	-	-
49	Single Rose Bloom	-	Sydney Dooley	Dorothy Seymour	Trevor Stark	-
50	One Vase of Annuals, six of one variety	-	Mary Simmons	John Caws	-	-
51	Top Vase – Competition rules apply	-	Dorothy Seymour	-	-	-
	Plants					
52	Flowering Pot Plant - pot max 6" diameter	E&MAHA Tankard	Trevor Stark	Mo Ottesen	-	-
53	Foliage Pot Plant - pot max 6" diameter	Andrew Leonard Silver Salver	No entrants	-	-	-
54	A Cactus or other Succulent – pot max 6" diameter	-	Trevor Stark	Sue Nugent	Rachel Webb	-
	Junior					
55	Best Scarecrow (to be built on your own post)	E&MAHA Best Scarecrow	Albert Webb	-	-	-
56	Funniest Vegetable Sculpture 7-12 years	E&MAHA Junior Award	Sophia Reid	Jay Angus	Joshua Reid	Stephie Angus
57	Mini Garden in seed tray Up to 7 years	E&MAHA Junior Award	Omari Moyo	-	-	-
	Photography					
58	Sunset/Sunrise on the Allotment	E&MAHA Tankard	Rachel Webb	Kate Angus	-	-
59	Best dressed Allotment Holder		Mary Simmons	-	-	-
	Cookery					
60	Pickle or Chutney – your own recipe	-	Emily Pountney	Alison McCredie	Geoff Collinge	-
61	Victoria Sponge – to our recipe:-	-	Liz Kern	Mary Simmons	Mo Ottesen	-
62	Scones – your own recipe	-	Tony Shuker	-	-	-
	Wine					
63	One bottle Table Red Wine	-	Tony Shuker	-	-	-
64	One bottle Table White Wine	-	Rachel Webb	Terry Crook	-	-
	'The Master Gardener'					
65	A display of Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers	-	No entrants	-	-	-
66	Jam/Jelly		Liz Kern	-	Alison McCredie	
	Overall Best in Show Award		Mo Ottesen	-	-	-

- = no trophy for category, place not awarded or no entrant



World Earthworm Day 21st October

The Wildlife Trusts and the RHS set up [Wild About Gardens](http://wildaboutgardens.org.uk) to celebrate wildlife gardening and to encourage people to use their gardens to take action to help support nature. This is because many of our common garden visitors – including hedgehogs, house sparrows and starlings – are increasingly under threat.

This year Wild About Gardens is going wild about worms – essential for our soils and wildlife. There are 29 earthworm species in the UK and each one has an integral role in our ecosystem. A single worm can eat its own weight in soil in one day. Beneath our plots they're turning, enriching and recycling the soil.

To find out more about how to make wormy compost and to identify some of the common types of worms you'll have on your plot, download your free worm booklet [here](#) or see <https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/>. Great for kids too.

Struggling to get going with your new plot? Need some help to tidy up at the end of the season?

Don't forget the Allotment Buddies Scheme...

Willing volunteers are available to provide any kind of support you'd like – maybe a one-off help or continuous support e.g. planting and sowing.

The Allotment Buddies scheme is 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 pop down to the Community Allotment on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 3pm or contact Gail Baird directly: **023 9289 2022** or Gail.baird@johnpoundscentre.co.uk

Di

Liz

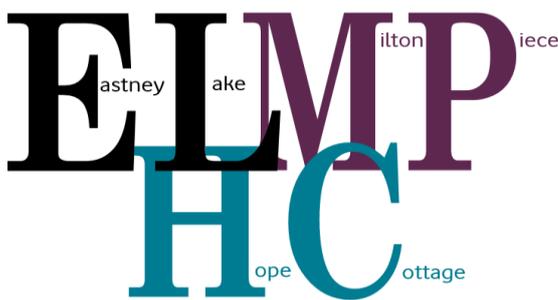


Double cropping autumn raspberries

Autumn is a great time to plant new fruit bushes such as raspberries. There are two types, summer fruiting and autumn fruiting. However, you can 'double crop' autumn raspberries to extend their season.

In February, choose the strongest canes and cut off the tops just below where the fruit was produced. Cut back the rest to ground level as usual. The half-pruned canes will produce fruit much earlier and can then be cut back to their bases in late summer, while the rest of the canes go on to produce fruit in autumn as usual.

Peter



Want to join the Allotment Association so you can place a seed order or use the onsite shop?

Pop along to the on-site shop and see one of the volunteers. Don't forget your email address to ensure you get a copy of our email updates and newsletter direct to your inbox. The shop is open every Sunday or Tuesday morning between 9:30 and 11:30am.

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
(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. We welcome contributions from all members.

Contributors this month: Ashley, John, Joyce, Liz, Peter, Trish, the Association Committee. Editing and design: Di

www.eastneymiltonallotmentassociation.co.uk