

Compton Allotment News – March 2017

Welcome to the March edition of Compton Allotment News.

Adverts, articles, pictures, photographs, open days, recipes, news, advice on growing, etc...

Please send to – Sue Day at keithandsueday@virginmedia.com

A Work Party will take place on the allotment on Sunday 19th March. 9 am – 12 noon.

Please come along and help out, even if you can only spare an hour or so.

Refreshments are available, any home made cakes and biscuits would be gratefully received.

New Shed Policy

I have been asked to include this by the Committee. You will find it on page 5.

I have had an up-date from Mike Ryan, Chairman of the Christmas Pie Pig Club. 10 little piglets will be arriving in early April. They will be about 5 weeks old when we first get to see them. 5 will be Blacks (as last year) and 5 will be Middle Whites.

The Peripheral Ditch work is still to be arranged. No date as yet.

A Pop Up Car Wash is coming soon to very near our allotment. You will not only get your car washed for a good cause, but refreshments are also available while you wait. All details on page 3.

The mower has just come back from service. Blades on the mower needed replacing this year. The major cause is mole hills. Please can you help the boys out, by kicking over any mole hills on your way to and from your plot. Grass cutting will resume as soon as the ground is dry enough for them not to get bogged down.

The taps are due to be switched back on again at the end of March.

Some of the March things to do on the Allotment:-

Clear off dead leaves from strawberry plants and give them a top dressing of a general fertiliser.

Complete any digging and winter pruning.

Sow seeds for brussels sprouts, summer cabbage and broccoli. You can also sow seeds for leeks in a nursery bed.

Chit potatoes in a cool room with some light. Early potatoes can be planted out towards the end of March. You just need to check the weather conditions and be prepared to earth up if we get more frosts.

Shallots and onion sets can now be planted out.

Check through your seeds and look on the packets for planting times. Quite a lot of vegetables and flowers can be sown in March, they will just need protection.

March pests and diseases:-

- Slugs are now out and about.

- Pigeons will eat nearly everything, especially newly planted out green vegetables. Net and protect.

The Allotment is starting to come alive

(photographs taken on the 20 February)



And then along came **Doris**

Storm Doris on the 23rd February caused a lot of destruction on the allotment, with glass blown out of greenhouses, compost bins and lids have gone flying, plastic sheeting and Mypex have been blown everywhere. The winds were north westerly, so if you have lost anything from your plot you may have to look at least 100 yards away towards the Withies Gate and the east perimeter.

Compton Allotment Fete on Saturday 13th May

Any help with the Allotment Stall on the day would be greatly appreciated. Even if you can only spare an half hour or so, it will give others time to get refreshment.

Please contact one of the Committee members.

For those of you with green fingers, as on previous years we welcome any plants you may have raised over the last few months.

Flowers and herbs, from experience, do better than vegetables.

Marigolds, Geraniums, Snap Dragons etc. Pot up Mint, Chives and Sage.

Growers of Rhubarb, you know how this flies off the shelf. I hope your harvest is a good one this year.

Preserves and Jams are also very popular.

For new plot holders, it is a great chance to come along and socialise and pick up some vegetables, flowers and fruit plants for your new plot.

Pop Up Car Wash At 6 Oak Cottages, Withies Lane

On various Saturdays and Sundays starting in March and running throughout the spring/summer/autumn.

Bonnie the daughter of Nicola Kingston on plot 22b, is raising money for a Partners Schools Worldwide trip to help on a community project in Ghana in spring 2018 – in the past these have included school and library building and refurbishment and a similar community project will be planned for next year's trip.

£5 per car wash (£9 incl. interior)

£7 for 4x4's, estates and SUVs (12 incl. interior)

If the sign is up we're open; alternatively email Nicola.kingston99@gmail.com in advance to check.

Just pull up on the paved area in front of the picket fence; refreshments available while you wait; or leave your car with us and Bonnie's mum (Nicola) will bring the car to you up at the allotment once it's ready.

Bonnie and Nicola, please give us an update later in the year on how you are getting on.

Stream clearing took place again on 24th February



Thank you to everyone who took part.

Steve, Dave, David, Jonathan, Keith, Ben and Ann.

(Still a bit more clearing to do at the Polsted Lane End).

New Shed Policy

Our landlord's (Compton Parish Council) have expressed a view that, if possible, over time they would like the allotment to have a more open aspect. The Allotment Committee are in agreement with this view and, consequently, will change the rules on sheds, so that in future we will place sheds at the periphery of the site.

Please be assured that it is not the intention of the committee to force members to move their existing sheds.

New sheds will be placed at the edges and when plots change hands, if a shed is left on the plot, it will be moved.

Obviously we will strive to place the sheds as near to member's plot/s as is possible.

The normal shed application process remains but now there will be negotiations as to the siting of the shed.

The rules concerning 4 foot high tool storage boxes remain unchanged.

We would reiterate that sheds would only be moved when plots change hands, there is no change for existing sheds.

The Committee