

Trap Ground Allotment Association 2016 Spring Newsletter

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Important information on skips

The full skip was removed on Friday and an empty one put in place. Unfortunately asbestos cement (pieces of corrugated roofing material) were found in the full skip and it was returned to us to deal with. **PLEASE DON'T PUT ASBESTOS IN THE SKIP - WE STAND TO BE HEAVILY FINED**. Cement bonded asbestos can be found all over the site, because it was once a tip. Oxford City Council has advice for [advice for dealing with asbestos](#). Meanwhile, please use the skip nearest the gate for rubbish, because that is the one that will be removed first. The skips are expensive, so:

1. Please don't put wood in the skip - take it to the communal bonfire.
2. Please don't put green vegetable material in the skip - compost it or take it to the communal compost.
3. Please don't put rubble in the skip – take it to the designated rubble bank opposite the communal compost bins.
4. On no account put asbestos or other hazardous waste in the skip. Take it to Redbridge instead. Hazardous waste includes:
 - o pesticides
 - o insecticides
 - o batteries
 - o household cleaning chemicals
 - o other garden chemicals
 - o car care products
 - o aerosols.

Railway update

The latest information about the completion of the bridge works, and the eventual closing of the level crossing, suggests that the work will continue until mid-September.

The communal compost heaps and bonfire.

The point of these is to reduce or eliminate the need for **bonfires** on individual plots which can be a real nuisance-nothing worse than working downwind of a smelly bonfire someone has left to smoulder. Also many members have smaller plots and don't wish to have their own compost heap, or don't have room for one. While we do employ some hired labour at peak times, much of the work is volunteers so please help us out. Please only bring over green or dry straw-like material that can be composted. Making good compost requires layers of both soft green stuff and dryer 'brown' material. Please tip them in the two collection bins. Please put big bits of wood, tree trimmings or other burnable materials tidily on the bonfire next to the composters. Periodically we will have a quick hot bonfire, and there may be wood ash for fertiliser. I will send round a note and put up a poster when there is compost to be taken away-this makes good mulch, can be dug in, or used to fill raised beds.

2016 Plant sale

This year's plant sale will take place on Sunday 22 May 2016. Contributions of seedlings, plants, preserves, honey and, for the second year running, cookery and gardening books will be gratefully received at the St Margaret's Institute on the afternoon of Saturday 21 May 2016. Last year's plant sale made a record-breaking £1,500 which it is unlikely that we will be able to repeat.

The Paths and Mowing.

Last year the mowing team kept the site's paths in good order, for which, many thanks. We would be glad of a few more volunteers so please get in touch with Tony Hollander if you would be prepared to take a turn at this.

We have added rubble to the paths most prone to being rutted by tractors and trailers delivering manure, but in wet weather, when the ground is soft there is always likely to be some damage. It is as well to have deliveries made in late summer when the ground has dried out and hardened.

In case you cut turves from the edges of your plots, please use them to fill in any ruts or dips in nearby paths. At the same time, please don't cut the edges of paths to narrow them too much as this makes using the sit-on mower impossible. Paths between plots should be at least a metre wide.

Allotment shop

The shop has now re-opened for the growing season and will be open from 11.00 to 12.00 on Saturdays and from 3.00 until 4.00 on Sundays. As well as its usual stock, there are two varieties of seed potato on sale: Desiree and Charlotte at £2.00 per kilo. If you want to buy seed potatoes, please bring a suitable container to put them in.

Photo Competition

As usual we are running a photo competition this year with the theme **Weather**. And as usual the prizes will be announced at the harvest supper on Saturday 12 November 2016, where the attendees will select next year's theme and vote for the people's prize. The website will be updated with rules and instructions for entering later in the year, but start taking photos now. The winning photos of the competition in 2015 were:

- 1: The Carrs taking a fruitful rest by Karin Fremer
 - 2: Mr Mole, Allotment Gardener, mounts night-time attack on the Chairman's plot by Chris Becket
 - 3: Green under a blue sky by Liz Kay
- People's prize: Bums Up by Sue Ledwith

The photos can be viewed [here](#). Thanks once again to Hugh Palmer for judging the entries, and for the advice he gave at the 2015 harvest supper for taking good photographs.
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