

NewsLetter



Summer 2016 Issue 2

Contact

If you've got any ideas or tips and would like to share them please get in touch via:

≈ Email firsallotmentnewsletter@gmail.com

≈ Pin a note on the allotment notice board

≈ Drop by (Chris, allotment plot 8B)

News

Open Day August 2016

This year's Open Day will take place on Sunday 7th August from 11.00am-3.00pm. To help raise funds for the allotment and our members we welcome contributions of fresh fruit and vegetables along with homemade cakes and jams.

Making History

≈ Did you know that the Firs Allotment is over 80 years old? There is more history on our website. Why not give it a go?

Scrap Metal Campaign

≈ The campaign to raise extra funds for the allotment is going well. We have exceeded the amount we raised last year and would like to thank all members for their efforts. If you have any scrap metal please remember to donate it (it's a valuable source of income). To donate simply drop it off at Sue and Simon's plot (plot 50) located at the top of the site just before the main gate on your left you'll see a black iron gate just inside on the right is a place for your donations. Thank you.

Website News

If you're interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables we have a number of plots available. At £40, roughly 11p per day, for the year it offers great value for money with the opportunity to get some free exercise.

Why not give it a go and contact the allotment secretary, Sandra, for a viewing on Derby 01332 365943?

www.firstestateallotments.co.uk

Recipe corner

Cooking with fresh or dried herbs can enhance your fresh vegetable dishes. Set aside an area for planting and reap the reward. The Royal Horticultural Society (2016) says, "Fresh herbs are easy to grow and harvest adding flavours to any meal." For more information:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=679>

Organic Tips

Borage has a number of uses, for instance, it's good for:

~ "Bees", says Margaret (plot 5B)

~ "Salads, use the blue flowers", says Sabine (plot 41)

~ "Cold drinks, I've made ice cubes [with the blue leaf flower for fun]", says Sarah (plot 34A).

Source

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borage#Characteristics_and_uses

Notice Board

We have a Shop!

Our shop (large shed positioned at the top of the allotment site) is open on a Sunday from 10.00am - 11.30am.

Plots Available!

≈ We have 6 plots.

Volunteers Needed!

≈ Have spare time for projects or repairs your allotment needs you.

Dates for the dairy

The Hive at Kew

[The] "Critically acclaimed structure The Hive has come to Kew and is open to the public from 18 June until November 2017." (Kew, 2016)

If you head over to the Kew website you can get some fascinating insights on Bees and view some amazing photographs.

<http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/explore/attractions/hive>

"Start your Bee World today"

≈ Get your free seeds and advice.

https://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/bee_worlds_39332

Spot Light

Help Our Bees to Flourish

("Over half of UK bee species have declined in the last 50 years.")

Bees pollinate fruit and vegetables without the free services of the bee population allotment plot growers would find it very difficult to get their fruit and vegetables pollinated. The bee and the pollination process provide "every third mouthful we eat."

The wild flower is on the decline. There is a close relationship with plant life and bees. The wild flower depends on the bee and the bee depends on the wild flower. We depend on the "complex ecosystems" to provide the balance we need for our allotment environment. "Their loss [bees] would exacerbate plant declines, such as losses seen in wildflowers."

Bees are very important pollinators for crops such as tomatoes, strawberries and apples. They have the potential to increase your crop yields and improve the quality of your produce. (The Bee Coalition, 2015)

"Since 1930's we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows."

Where have all the wildflowers gone? Introducing wildflowers to an allotment plot would help to attract bees and pollinate our fruit and vegetables. "In recent decades three [UK] bumblebee species have become extinct¹."

Source (<https://www.foe.co.uk/blog/climate-change-means-double-trouble-bees>)