

**ADDISCOMBE, WOODSIDE & SHIRLEY LEISURE GARDENS  
LTD  
GLENTHORNE AVENUE, CROYDON. CR0 7EZ.  
www.awslg.org.uk**

**NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025**

**VOLUNTEERING AT ITS BEST**

The Big Clean Up day, held on a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning was so well attended by willing volunteers that all the tasks in hand were dealt with in double quick time. The green outside the canteen was mowed, strimmed and tidied up so that it was looking at its best for the inspection by the CFAGS representatives. (Croydon Federation of Allotment & Garden Societies.

This is a long-standing organization representing allotment plot holders in Croydon, with a history spanning over 100 years. It was officially formed in 1919. CFAGS works to promote and protect allotments within the borough and facilitates communication and collaboration among its member societies. Two volunteers went to judge other allotments in the borough from our allotments. Unfortunately, this particular Saturday was the direct opposite of our dry clean-up day and there was torrential, but well needed rain all day. They both got completely soaked to the skin. Thanks must go to Jen Tapping and Jill Seagroatt for giving up their valuable time, apart from tending their own plots they contribute a lot of unseen essential support that keeps our society going.

Volunteers are our life-blood, as an organisation we could not survive without them. Even if you don't volunteer directly, helping fellow plot-holders, for example, planting their onions or potatoes or watering and weeding their plots when illness strikes counts toward our social cohesion. If you do none of this and want to grow your own fruit and vegetables in isolation, then maybe this allotment site is not for you.

I am currently working on information sheets that list in clear and concise detail the various volunteer jobs that need to be fulfilled. These will soon be available on the notice boards, canteen, trading centre, and the office. Please reconsider if you have never volunteered before. We have an honourable tradition of volunteering to keep our costs down which dates from the time our forebears raised the money to purchase our land as a privately owned site.

**ANNUAL SHOW**

**SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2025**

**2.30pm** Show Hall opens

Afternoon Teas

**4.30pm** Auction of Produce

Show schedules, staging times and entry forms will be available from the trading hut, the canteen or can be downloaded from our web site. Photos for the photography competition must be received by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September, show entry forms by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. There will be a tombola, tea and cakes and an auction of produce beginning at 4.30pm.

Our show provides an opportunity for plot holders to exhibit their prize crops, flowers etc. and to get together to discuss their successes and their failures and the weather of course. There are many different classes to enter: fruit & vegetables, flowers, baking, as well as classes for novices, children and the whole family. You don't have to be an expert – give it a try.

After the successful turnout for our Big Clean-up Day, we are very hopeful that we will get the support and the help needed to make the day a success. We need volunteers to help with preparation before the show and on the day.

Later on, a rota for jobs will be put up in the Trading Hut and canteen for people to sign up. In the mean time if all you budding Bake-off fans could plan to make us a cake or two for the afternoon tea and consider an hour or more to help in the kitchen on the day or help set up the hall on Saturday, perhaps running the tombola or bagging up the produce for the auction.

Emails offering your help to the following: awslg.ltd@gmail.com. Speak to a committee member in the office on a Saturday morning for more information. Donations of cakes would be gratefully received from 10.30 am on the day in the hall. We would also welcome donations for the tombola, these can be left in the trading centre or the office.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY CANTEEN OPEN FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON  
SATURDAY ONLY OFFICE OPEN FROM 10.30AM TO 12 NOON**

## **JOBS TO DO IN AUGUST**

### **FRUIT CARE :**

Cut out fruited canes of summer raspberries and tie in new canes to fruit next year. Select strong, healthy canes and cut out weak, forked or misplaced ones (such as those growing out into the paths). Net autumn fruiting raspberries.

Tie in new growth on blackberries and hybrid berries.

Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners and prepare new strawberry beds for next year. Treat with a fungicide if powdery mildew is serious.

Support heavily laden branches on plums and damsons to prevent breakage. Prune after fruiting.

Remove apples, pears and plums affected with brown rot or pocket plum to prevent the disease from spreading.

Gather scabby leaves from diseased apples and pears.

Do not compost anything infected with brown rot, pocket plum or scab, instead bury at least 30cm (1ft) or use the green waste collection as their incinerators heat to such a high temperature that the spores are destroyed.

If bacterial canker has been a problem on stone fruit trees, prune out affected smaller branches, wait until harvest is complete, then spray with a fungicide.

### **VEGETABLE CARE:**

Lift onions, shallots and garlic when ready. Plants should be harvested when the necks start to turn brown and bend over naturally. Avoid actively bending the necks, as this can result in disease. Once harvested, let the tops dry until they rustle like brown paper, and then remove them.

Harvest sweetcorn as it ripens. Push a fingernail into the kernel when the tassels at the end of the cob start to shrivel and brown. If the liquid is milky it indicates they are ready.

Continue earthing up celery, putting a layer of paper between the stems and the soil.

Finish harvesting second early potatoes especially if it turns wet as your crop can be destroyed by slugs.

Weeds can also compete with vegetables for water and act as hosts for pests and diseases, so should be removed regularly by hoeing.

Marrows should be raised off the ground slightly, to prevent them rotting from contact with the soil. Some older leaves can be removed, if necessary, to maximise sun upon the fruit.

Take care when thinning out any late-sown carrot seedlings to prevent the scent released attracting carrot fly females. To protect them from carrot fly use *fleece* or *enviromesh* coverings.

Tomatoes start to ripen from mid-summer onwards, although timing depends on the variety, weather conditions and fruit size. Smaller cherry tomatoes ripen more quickly than larger fruits. Check plants every few days and pick tomatoes individually, with the stalk still attached, as soon as they're ripe and fully coloured.

Irregular watering can lead to problems with blossom end rot in tomatoes, splitting of root vegetables and flower abortion in peas and beans. Help prevent this by watering well during dry spells, stored rainwater from a water butt is ideal.

Take cuttings of rosemary, bay and hyssop.

### **LAWN/FLOWER CARE:**

Apply final nitrogenous feed to lawns.

Feed containers, and even tired border perennials, with a *liquid tomato or Miracle-Gro* food each week to encourage them to bloom into the early autumn.

Pinks and carnations can be propagated by layering. Propagate irises by dividing the rhizomes.

Take cuttings of tender perennials such as Pelargonium and Osteospermum, as soon as possible. A greenhouse, cool conservatory or a light windowsill are ideal to bring them on until they are established.

Collect and store seed of hardy annuals and perennials for sowing later in the autumn.

### **SOW OR PLANT OUTDOORS**

Japanese onions, Oriental vegetables

Spring cabbage, turnips, lettuce, radish, rocket, sorrel, chicory, fennel & spring onions for late salads.

Sow green manures such as crimson clover and Italian ryegrass to act as a soil improver and to cover bare areas.

**TRADING CENTRE OPENING TIMES - SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10.30AM TO 12.15PM SATURDAY 2.30PM TO 4.15PM.**