

A.W.S.L.G. TRADING CENTRE NEWS
ADDISCOMBE, WOODSIDE & SHIRLEY LEISURE GARDENS LTD
GLENTHORNE AVENUE, CROYDON. CR0 7EZ.
www.awslg.org.uk

ANNUAL RENT COLLECTION
WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HALL

Saturday 11th October 09:30 -12:00hrs

Saturday 18th October 09:30 -12:00hrs

**Saturday 25th October 09:30 -12:00hrs plus an
afternoon session 14:00 -16:00hrs**

Sunday 26th October 09:30 - 12:00hrs

**Plot holders must attend in person to pay as we
need to check that we have your correct details.**

£108 per plot, £54 per half plot. Running costs for the site (repairs and maintenance, insurance, heat and light) are expected to be £23000 which works out at £65 per plot. On top of that we have our largest and most unpredictable bill – the water bill which is likely to be £20000 or £55 per plot. So, the predicted cost of running a plot for the next year is £120.

In the past few years, we have used all the income from the Trading Hut and Canteen to subsidise the rents and, because we have had no major projects, we have broken even at the end of the year. This year and in coming years, there are works that need doing – the Canteen needs underpinning and securing; to further enhance the security of the site a reissuing of keys is planned and we are planning to introduce a raised bed scheme so that plot holders who do not feel able to work a full plot can remain part of the community. We need to put half of the income from the Trading Hut and Canteen towards this. We will still use the other half to subsidise the rents. This is in line with the £20 rise predicted earlier in the year. If you think that this will be difficult for you, please contact the Office.

Payment may be made by card, cheque, or, in exceptional circumstances, cash. Please note payments up to £100 are contactless, higher sums will require your pin number. Please ensure cheques are made payable to AWSLG Ltd and that you write your name and plot number on the reverse. For those of you who have decided to give up their plot please remember that you need to hand in your gate key and receive your £10 deposit back. It is vital that we have these keys returned so they can be passed on to the newcomers.

Newsletter October 2025

This will be my final newsletter. There are two reasons for this, a change in family circumstances that has necessitated much more caring for my family and Microsoft is winding down their support of the Publisher program I use for the newsletter. This program has had a slight reprieve so I presume that there has been an understandable backlash from fellow users, it was due to be discontinued in January 2026 but that has now been changed to October 2026. Microsoft Publisher is a very easy program for learning how to design documents such as newsletters, flyers etc. Hopefully there is someone out there to carry on the good work. I will help as much as possible.

I have been writing the newsletter since January 2007 after taking over from Ted Viner who was a very hard act to follow. I had hoped that I could carry on for a while; at least until December which would have made a nice round number of eighteen years. During that time, it has been a labour of love and I have learnt a lot from all the research I have done.

Jean Reynolds.

PLANTING WINTER ONIONS

Autumn planting can result in larger onions with a better flavour and you avoid competing with spring-planted crops. Planting during this time allows them to establish roots before winter dormancy, resulting in an earlier harvest in June or July, a full month before spring-planted onions.

The Trading Centre has recently received more supplies of **Senshyu Yellow** and **Autumn Champion onion sets**.

Plant your winter onions from the end of September onwards to let the sets establish their root systems before the coldest months. Onions need fertile, moist, and well-drained soil. Covering young plants with a fleece or netting can protect them from birds pulling up the sets. If we get an early frost fleece will also protect them as well. Only use a small amount of fertiliser, as too much can lead to lush growth that is vulnerable to frost. I have had better results over the years by planting on a slightly raised bed as this benefits the root system if we have a wet winter.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY CANTEEN OPEN FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON
THE SATURDAY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DURING RENT COLLECTION

JOBS TO DO IN OCTOBER

VEGETABLE CARE:

Harvest pumpkins, squashes and marrows when ripe. Leave them in the sun, or in a greenhouse or garage, to let the skins harden and dry off, before storing them in a cool, dry, dark place.

Continue to lift carrots and beetroot, plus any remaining potatoes still in the ground. Only store healthy, intact roots. Parsnips should be left in, as they taste better once touched by the frost.

Pick the last of the remaining runner beans. Any old, stringy ones are better composted than eaten.

Dig up outdoor tomato plants and hang them upside-down in the greenhouse to allow the fruits to ripen. Green tomatoes make good chutney.

Sow overwintering broad beans. Covering the trench with **fleece** or cloches will provide insulation against the cold, as well as protection from pigeons.

Carrots and peas can still be sown in cold frames.

Plant out spring cabbages if not already done. Remember to net them for protection from pigeons. Various **bird netting** is available in the warehouse.

Finish planting **autumn onion sets** for a crop in early to mid-summer next year. Garlic can still be planted in free-draining soil but be careful if the weather has turned too wet. Otherwise it can be started in containers or modules, and planted out when more mature.

Green manures can still be sown. Grazing Rye is one of the best for overwintering, with deep penetrative roots that break up heavy soil. Slugs and snails can damage early growth. Dig in during early spring.

October is a good time to start winter digging as the approaching cold weather may help to improve the soil structure by breaking down large clumps into crumbly particles. If you have a bad back, don't dig but try and clear as many weeds as possible, lay cardboard and spread manure or compost over the surface, the worms will do the work of incorporating it by taking it down into the soil, this will keep your soil fertile.

Observe good, basic hygiene rules by removing all plant debris from your plots to reduce the spread and the overwintering of disease and pests.

Remove yellowing leaves on brussels sprouts and cabbages to prevent grey mould from becoming troublesome.

Refrain from composting diseased material such as tomatoes affected by blight because the temperatures in domestic compost bins may not be sufficient to kill pests and diseases. Burning the waste, burying it deeply or placing it in the green waste collection are recommended alternative methods.

FRUIT CARE:

New trees can be planted as soon as the autumn weather sets in. The soil will still be quite warm in early October, even if the weather is cool, and the roots of new plants will benefit from this. This is particularly important for peaches and nectarines. Other fruit trees may have a higher tolerance of cold at the roots, and can be planted later in the dormant season.

Prune out any dead, dying or diseased shoots on apple and pear trees that are affected by canker or other problems that can continue to worsen over the winter. Collect fallen apples and pears affected with brown rot. Do not compost. Pick off any affected fruit that remains on the tree otherwise the fruits become mummified and form a source of infection for next year.

Apply **grease bands** to fruit trees and stakes thus protecting them against female winter moths and other pests.

Take cuttings of currants and gooseberries and dig up rooted layers of blackberries and hybrid berries.

Autumn is also a good time to mulch under fruit trees and bushes with either garden compost, woodchip or bark chippings. Chippings will help keep weeds down while garden compost will improve soil structure and fertility.

ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Now is a good time to tend to greenhouses and polytunnels. Even if you don't think the glass or plastic needs cleaning, do it anyway and you will be amazed by the results because this has the added advantage of increasing the light levels during the winter months. With fewer crops occupying the space, it's easier to have a tidy up and repair any damage before the harsh winter months can make things worse. If you have planted winter crops then reduce ventilation and watering to reflect falling temperatures.

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