

Burdell Lane



ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW PLOT HOLDERS

You are encouraged to join BLAA for reasons stated in the leaflet you will have been given when you took on your plot. Look at our website – all this information and more is there <http://burydellallotments.wordpress.com/>. This leaflet is meant to give some practical advice and general advice to new plotholders.

Help – I've got a new plot - where do I start!

- Chop down weeds and cover uncultivated land with weed suppressant material – this will kill most weeds in 6 months and make subsequent cultivation easier.
- When you clear the plot dig out perennial weeds (eg nettles, couch grass, bind weed). DO NOT put the roots on your compost heap.
- Divide plot into manageable areas. Don't try and clear the whole plot . GET PLANTING.
- VITAL - buy a basic gardening book with a month by month guide.
- Old gardening magazines are in the communal shed.
- Look at other plots and don't be afraid to ask neighbours for advice – we are a friendly bunch!
- Don't expect to have your whole plot under control in the first year.
- Crop rotation prevents diseases build up and nutrition depletion
- Plant crops which you enjoy eating!
- Rabbits are a problem. Install rabbit-proof fencing all round your plot before you start growing. (Rabbits don't eat broad beans, rhubarb, potatoes and onions but they do eat pretty much everything else.) Dig a trench at least 12" deep and bend netting at the bottom towards the plot. Use wire netting (maximum hole size 1inch) buried in the trench to prevent the rabbits burrowing. Rabbits can jump so the fencing needs to be at least 4ft high.
- Pigeons are a major pest (net young plants) as are slugs, snails and mice.

General information

- If you find yourself in difficulties with your plot, **please do speak to the Site Liaison Officer (Pat Solomons tel: 01923 671277, email jpatbricketwood@sky.com)** as soon as possible who will try and help you.
- **Water** – fresh water at standpipes on between March and October. Be aware hose pipe bans are sometimes in operation.

- **Manure** - is delivered from time to time (in the bay by the entrance gate). This is fresh from the field and is good as a compost accelerator. Alternatively store for at least 6 months before use. Bags are re-used so please return..
- **Chippings** - are delivered from time to time (bay by entrance gate). Good for paths - but if used as a weed suppressant be aware that as the chippings decompose they will draw nitrogen from the soil (depleting crops and inhibiting their growth)
- **Plant Table** – located by the communal shed. Please put money in jar or drop off at 2 Mill Cottages. Feel free to add any surplus plants, crops to the table (please price).
- Plotolders can drive onto the site between March and October, except during long spells of wet weather
- Security is taken very seriously. All plotolders **MUST** lock the gate behind them whether entering or exiting the site – this is to prevent squatters, vandals and fly tippers.
- Non-compostable rubbish can be stored on your plot and put in the skip provided twice yearly by the Council. Otherwise all plotolders are expected to compost their plant refuse and to take non-compostable rubbish away with them.
- Plant material is a valuable commodity as it equals compost which you can't have enough of. **Please do not use the skip for plant waste!**
- Lots of help and advice in books, magazines, television programmes and on the internet eg organic versus non-organic, the art of making compost.
- **Please speak to your neighbours and ask for advice!**