

Somersham and District Allotment and Smallholding Association June 2017 Newsletter



Hello Everyone! Hopefully your growing seasons' have started well and you have been enjoying the lovely weather. I hope that you find this newsletter useful, if there is anything you would like to see in future editions please let me know! – Vicky Moseley, Secretary

PLOT NUMBERS and BOUNDARIES

Some time ago it was agreed that plot numbers would be displayed at the front of plots, to make identifying plots easier. If your plot is not already signposted, please can you ensure that your plot is marked up?

All plots were originally marked with boundary posts (tops painted white), and these should remain in situ at all times. There seems to be a number of boundary posts missing on Chapel Field, therefore these will be replaced by the Chapel Field coordinator (Roger Hinkins plots 45/46 -07702 490064). A survey of the King Street posts will be undertaken in the near future.

SPEEDING

We have received some complaints about various members speeding on the roadways at the allotments. The individuals will be spoken to separately but I would like to remind you that a large number of families and pedestrians have access to the site. Please drive sensibly with due care and attention while on allotment land, this includes not using your mobile phone while driving. Particular care should be taken near the blind corners, I have experienced some near misses there myself with my young nieces' and nephews'. We will be monitoring the situation but I hope that you understand our position on keeping everyone safe.



RAGWORT



Please can I ask you to assist us in the eradication of RAGWORT the allotment site? Ragwort flowers from July to September. The bright yellow daisy-like flowers are densely packed together in flat-topped heads (see picture).

It is not a 'reportable' plant in limited infestations, but it contains poisons/toxins that are detrimental to some animals. Ragwort is at its most dangerous when dead, as animals will be more likely to consume it as it loses its bitterness in this state. At the moment, we have a manageable infestation which, with a little effort from us all, we may be able to eradicate. Can individuals please deal with this within your plot area and the common areas in the immediate vicinity? The plant pulls up relatively

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easily (particularly in damp conditions) with the root attached and ideally should be burnt, not left lying around. The committee thanks you for your help and co-operation.



CARNIVAL DAY - JUNE 24th 2017

And finally, on to the fun stuff!

The Carnival committee have made a great start on ideas and projects for the allotment association carnival stall. We've had some great contributions so far, from decorations for the stall to some jars of honey kindly donated by Paul Edmondson. What we really need now is a commitment to donate produce, prizes and time on the day. If you can help please contact **Iris Bell** on **07749 455495**.

Don't forget:

- The **BBC Gardener's World show** at the Birmingham NEC runs from 15th-18th June celebrating 50 years of Gardener's World – get 20% off when you buy tickets online with code PR20
- **Woburn Abbey Garden Show** – 24th June 2017 10:00am - 6:00pm
- **National Allotment Week** runs from 14th – 20th August
- Don't forget to look up the **MyHarvest project** – the first national estimate of own-grown food production since World War II.

We have a few allotments of various sizes available so if you know of someone who has always wanted to try their hand at allotment gardening, or if you want to expand your plot please contact me, or your site co-ordinator,

Best wishes

The Allotment Committee