

System Allotment Society

NEWSLETTER



The National
Allotment Society

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd



National Allotments Week

A National Allotment Society Initiative

12th to 18th August 2019

Registered in 1930 under the Industrial
& Provident Societies Acts no. 11144R
VAT No. 1212930 14

Patron HRH Prince of Wales

Autumn to Winter 2019

Welcome to the Autumn to Winter 2019 newsletter. The beauty of summer is still with us, so thoughts of the season changing again are still distant, but our new plot holders are well on their way to becoming 'seasoned' and hopefully enjoying being part of our community, enjoying harvests galore. Far from being the end of the season, approaching autumn and winter are times for clearance, re design, building projects, moving plants to better positions etc. The ground is clearing, pesky weeds are subsiding a bit and we can see more open ground and its potential for ideas. Maybe we've got winter crops thriving to make the most of our cost cutting year round produce, or maybe we're planning cleared land ready for replenishing with nutrients, manure, lime, chicken pellets and other tried and tested nourishment. It is also time to consider re-opening our bug hotels again, like this double room at my exclusive Fence Post hotel.



If anyone else has quirky photos they would like to share in the newsletter, please talk to Kate H 19b

This edition will focus on the topical issue of plastics related to gardens and allotments, the Open Day, which this year coincided with the National Allotments Society 'Allotments Week'. There is detail about Allotment Society policy on data protection, the usual notices and inclusion of a relevant Wordsearch. KH.



RESEARCH

Plastic Free Gardening?

You may have seen in the June edition of the STN that Queniborough Parish Council and Syston Town Council both support attempts to reduce 'single use' plastics and become as plastic free as possible. Check out their websites.

The March 2019 issue of the National Geographic stated that 8 million tons of plastic runs into the sea each year. 80% of this comes from the land not from ships dumping it.

The huge amount of plastic that is polluting our soil, sediments and fresh water poses threats to all of us on land.....

1

unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/plastic-planet-how-tiny-plastic-particles-are-polluting-our-soils

What, if anything can we do about this on our allotments?

Plastic plant pots, seed trays, labels, root trainers can be used year after year if well cared for. Buckets can sometimes be repaired or used as planters.



Well used and repaired by Kate W & Paul

Instead of buying new plant pots you can make your own out of newspaper.

2.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Newspaper-Seedling-Pots>

Throwing away our plastic just adds to the problem, so if you have any good ideas about how to re-use your plastic send them in for the next newsletter.

We welcome your ideas.

K. Windridge © 2019

NB.

You can click on these blue active links by viewing the newsletter on our website version:

Note: Beyond our control
Some links may only remain available briefly. Our suggested links are therefore guidance for theme searches for your further research interests.

www.systonallotmentsociety.uk
'In progress' Huge thanks to Mark Cherry and son who are working hard on the new website and thanks to Tim for his previous website work on our behalf.

The article below is just one of many that can give guidance clarifying the specific grades 1 to 7 of available plastics, their common and lesser known likely dangers regarding their chemical stability, health risks or the potential leaching of chemicals into our soils.

3.

<https://www.epicgardening.com/which-plastics-are-safe-for-gardening/>

Allotment plot holders are a very resourceful lot and most of us enjoy up-cycling and re-using many other items for our thrifty schemes and projects. We can extend the life of all sorts of things, rubber, plastic, metal, wood etc.

Under the notice board where useful items are passed on between plot holders, (not plastic plant pots please) Kate H noticed that these wellies had been given the boot so she re-purposed them for her carrots.



Left by the gate, up-cycled by Kate H

'There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem.'
Leroy Eldridge Cleaver. American writer

ALLOTMENTS AND PLASTIC A BIGGER ISSUE

It seems everyone is becoming more alert to the need for action on reducing plastic waste. More of us are taking personal responsibility for 'doing our bit' especially with regard to finding alternatives to single use plastic. For us gardeners black plastic products are the main issue, not only because of re-use or disposal but also for the issue of decomposition around the foods we grow healthily in good faith.

Since China stopped taking much of our waste, the UK has begun to face up to the seriousness of not having adequate systems to cope with the waste we produce. Here in Europe, Austria and Germany recycle 60% of their waste, in the UK it's 17%. In 2016, across Europe 45.7 % of waste was landfilled and 37.8 % was recycled. (Source: Eurostat, waste statistics explained. New figures due Nov 2019)

There is much to be done by government, big business and corporate decision makers to improve genuine responses to the growing public demand for more environmental responsibility, for example reducing recycled pot costs for retailers.

By these public bodies initiating and implementing significantly better waste policy and practice, which then filters down to the national waste processing companies, manufacturers, distributors and suppliers, our local retailers could be better supported in providing viable alternatives to answer public demand for using less plastic - and specifically for us gardeners / consumers, we might find it easier to locate alternatives to black plant pots and trays, which we then have to be creative about.

Retailers are not generally recycling places for the public to discard their black pots and trays, unless clearly stated.

BUT LOOK ... 

Confirmed information from speaking with Managers directly.

Happily, having spoken to a small number of our local plant retail managers, from large garden centres to independent nurseries, such as **Coles**, **Dobbies /Rowena** (formerly Wyevale), **B&Q**, **Brooklea** and **Churchview**, (others are available). I found all were actively and positively addressing the problem in a practical way for themselves and consumers. Each already have a small number of their existing *multiple* suppliers offering recyclable alternatives *alongside* black plastic, such as clear recyclable pots planned for Brooklea. Coles has recyclable taupe pots available, Churchview uses green and clear recyclable pots internally. Dobbies has bamboo and rice recyclable pots which are free from BPA grade 7 (see web article 3 on p2). Wyevale initiated phasing in 700,000 taupe pots in 2019, hopefully since Dobbies takeover this number will increase.

Currently, retailers are charged significantly more for recyclable pots than for black plastic by suppliers, so it's particularly difficult for independent businesses to absorb extra costs and keep prices low for us. Reduced industry costs and public demand will help change things.

All the Retailers I spoke with are committed to up-cycling, re-cycling, re-using, reducing all possible materials behind the scenes for as long as possible in just the same way we responsible gardeners do.

All expressed the desire to introduce fully recyclable materials for customers and phase out black un-recyclable pots and trays. All are trying to do so. Financially, systems have to change higher up for them to succeed.

LOOK ... LOOK ... LOOK ...

Brooklea has a scheme of lending customers re-used plug trays to carry plants home and asks for them to be returned to the Nursery for continued re-use.

Dobbies /Rowena WILL take and recycle our clean plant pots and trays by returning them to their distributors for re-use.

B&Q WILL also take our clean plastic pots and trays for recycling and return them to their distributors for re-use.

MORE GOOD NEWS...

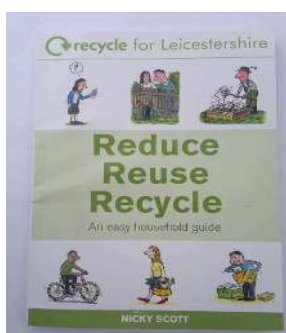
Plastic/waste theme continued

Leicestershire County Council produces a very useful Household guide (96 pages) about waste reduction called 'REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE' written by Nicky Scott. These can be obtained in bulk or individually from local authority sources.

Ph: 0116 2657339

E: wastemgt@leics.gov.uk

W: www.leics.gov.uk/waste



There is a limited free supply in our cabin.

WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Plan) www.wrap.org.uk

Ph: 0808 1002040

This is an organisation source offering sustainable solutions and informative waste policy facts in depth, such as the very positive economic potential for developing employment and meeting targets in the environmental sector via better waste management practice ie:

What are the opportunities for more recycling and reprocessing?

"Organisations working in the re-use and recycling sector can realise economic and environmental benefits from taking action to increase recycling rates, and improve the consistency of local recycling and food waste services."

By 2025 WRAP estimates the potential economic benefits of good sustainable environmental practice to be in the order of:

£430M

Potential increase in revenue from sales of recovered materials

4.5M tonnes

CO₂(eq)

Potential reduction in green-house gas emissions

£240M

Potential increase in renewable energy sales

£30M

Savings to re-processors and the recycling industry from lower contamination achieved through greater consistency

By working collaboratively to unlock these benefits, organisations working in the sector can also contribute to the delivery of national targets for waste recycling as well as fulfilling our UK and international responsibilities to the environment".

Source: Wrap website www.wrap.org.uk

Thanks To: WRAP media Office, for kind permission for reproduction of their 'Opportunities' article and figures. Local retail management of Garden Centres and Nurseries and L.Hall. K.Hubbard © 2019

RE-USE REPAIR REDUCE RECYCLE RE-THINK

**No one can do everything
But everyone can do something**

(Max Lucado, quoted from 'Outlive Your Life: You Were Made To Make A Difference' 2010)

Josie Hutchinson is a local garden expert and regular on Radio Leicester's 'Down To Earth' long running garden programme.

NEWS AND NOTICES ...

New Signage unveiled

Our Open Day Competitions Judge Josie Hutchinson, revealed the new sign after months in the making. Plot holders and the wider community, coordinated by Paul Windridge, generously gave time, considerable expertise and materials. Among these were Amy Keelan (illustrator), Sanders Design (CAD), Alan Hill and colleagues, Richard Thorpe and colleagues and JJ Scaffolding (poles). The sign celebrates our presence in Syston on the same 7 acre site, something our growing community can be proud of.



Josie getting stuck in to the task in hand



The big reveal by guest Judge Josie Hutchinson and Chairman Richard Thorpe, on 18th August marking National Allotments Week 2019 and our 100 year presence.

Allotment Watch

We intend to have an informal 'Allotment Watch' which will mean that if someone notices damage or theft they can contact a committee member who can then contact the plot holder concerned. If you have any comments or suggestions about this, please let us have them via the Facebook page or by talking to Richard Thorpe on Plot 15b, or other committee members. Plot holders' contact details are kept securely.

Data Protection

Syston Allotment Society has a Privacy and Data Protection Policy that you can look at on our website and Facebook page if you want the full details, or talk to Mark Cherry who provides IT expertise. The policy meets requirements of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

Here is a summary of the most important points. The Society will:

- Only collect information needed for the business of the Society – We will ask the question "Does the Society really need to keep this item of information on file?"
- Keep it secure – The Society will not allow members access to each other's personal data. Committee members are entitled to access all information held by their society or its officers acting for the society, but they will not be asking for personal data unless they need it to discharge their duty as a committee member.

- Ensure it is relevant and up to date – Members will be asked to confirm or correct the information the Society holds about them when they pay their rent or renew their membership each year with Syston Town Council. A review may be conducted if felt necessary by the Committee.

- Only hold as much as needed, and only for as long as needed – There are good reasons for holding ex-plot holders' details for a time in case of further contact. Records will not include member's age or date of birth, or any other 'sensitive' information.

- Allow the subject of the information (i.e. a plot holder) to see it on request – This is a legal right, and members will be allowed to inspect the data held on them.

This is just an extract. For the full version please see the website or ask Mark Cherry (61B) or Kate Windridge (54) for a printed copy.

Under section 5 of Syston Town Council's Data Protection Policy the Allotment Society is one of the 'third parties' with whom the Council is allowed to share data in relation to community facilities (in this case, name, contact details, date of becoming a tenant, plot number).

All the above is important in order to make sure all our contact details are kept safe, and to run the society efficiently for the benefit of plot holders, any of whom can join the committee or attend meetings without joining. If you have questions or suggestions they are very welcome! **K. Windridge © 2019**



WORDSEARCH (Level - challenging)

SOME BRITISH MOTHS

WORDS ARE HIDDEN IN THE GRID. THEY MIGHT BE WRITTEN UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, FORWARDS OR DIAGONALLY.

Hyphenated names are hidden separately. 'The' - omitted from some names

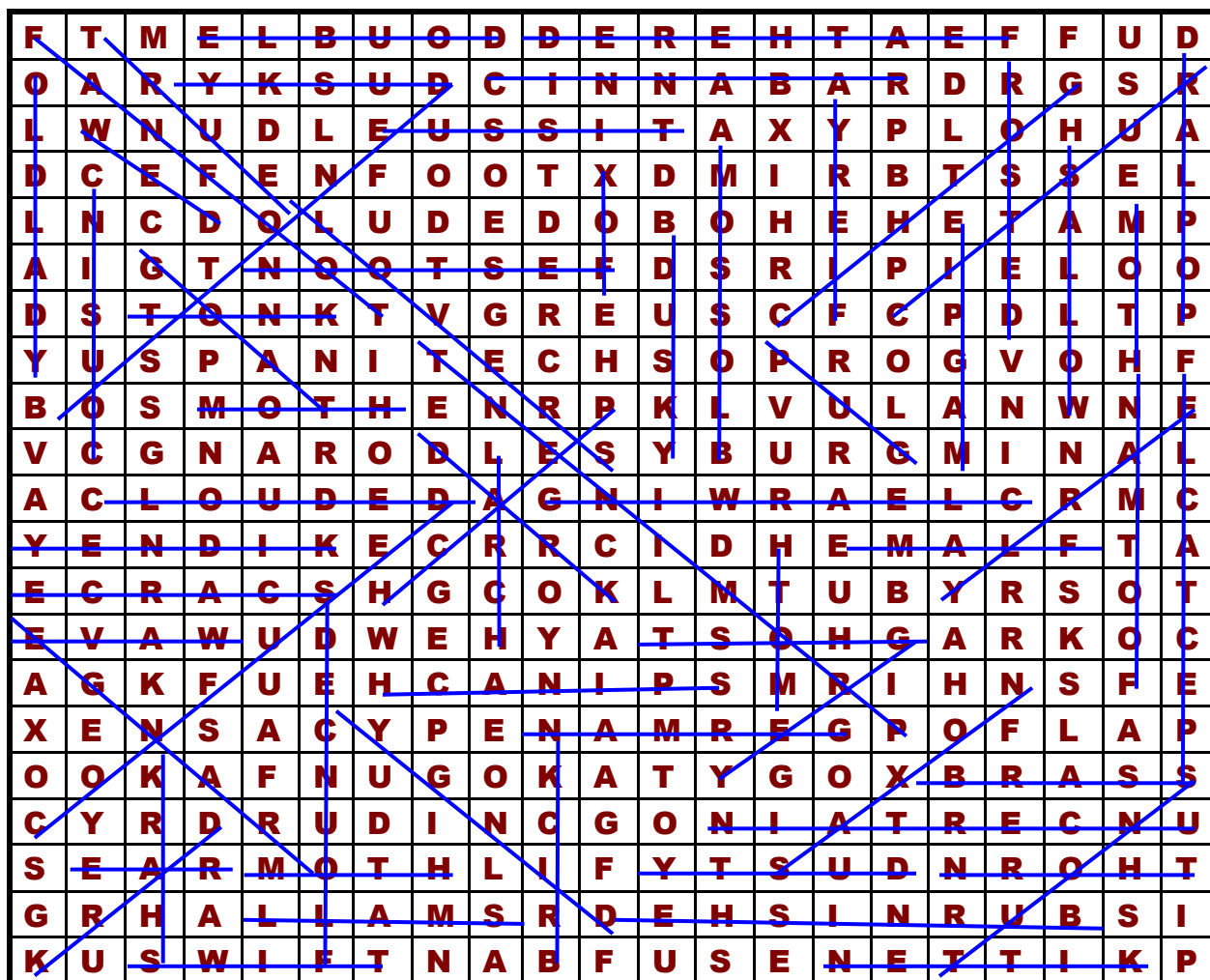
F	T	M	E	L	B	U	O	D	D	E	R	E	H	T	A	E	F	F	U	D
O	A	R	Y	K	S	U	D	C	I	N	N	A	B	A	R	D	R	G	S	R
L	W	N	U	D	L	E	U	S	S	I	T	A	X	Y	P	L	O	H	U	A
D	C	E	F	E	N	F	O	O	T	X	D	M	I	R	B	T	S	S	E	L
L	N	C	D	O	L	U	D	E	D	O	B	O	H	E	H	E	T	A	M	P
A	I	G	T	N	O	O	T	S	E	F	D	S	R	I	P	I	E	L	O	O
D	S	T	O	N	K	T	V	G	R	E	U	S	C	F	C	P	D	L	T	P
Y	U	S	P	A	N	I	T	E	C	H	S	O	P	R	O	G	V	O	H	F
B	O	S	M	O	T	H	E	N	R	P	K	L	V	U	L	A	N	W	N	E
V	C	G	N	A	R	O	D	L	E	S	R	B	U	R	G	M	I	N	A	L
A	C	L	O	U	D	E	D	A	G	N	I	W	R	A	E	L	C	R	M	C
Y	E	N	D	I	K	E	C	R	R	C	I	D	H	E	M	A	L	F	T	A
E	C	R	A	C	S	H	G	C	O	K	L	M	T	U	B	Y	R	S	O	T
E	V	A	W	U	D	W	E	H	Y	A	T	S	O	H	G	A	R	K	O	C
A	G	K	F	U	E	H	C	A	N	I	P	S	M	R	I	H	N	S	F	E
X	E	N	S	A	C	Y	P	E	N	A	M	R	E	G	P	O	F	L	A	P
O	O	K	A	F	N	U	G	O	K	A	T	Y	G	O	X	B	R	A	S	S
C	Y	R	D	R	U	D	I	N	C	G	O	N	I	A	T	R	E	C	N	U
S	E	A	R	M	O	T	H	L	I	F	Y	T	S	U	D	N	R	O	H	T
G	R	H	A	L	L	A	M	S	R	D	E	H	S	I	N	R	U	B	S	I
K	U	S	W	I	F	T	N	A	B	F	U	S	E	N	E	T	T	I	K	P

BRICK
 BURNISHED - BRASS
 BUTTONED - SNOUT
 CINNABAR
 CLOUDED - MAGPIE
 CONFUSED
 COUSIN - GERMAN
 DARK - SPECTACLE
 DARK - SPINACH
 DEW - MOTH
 DINGY - FOOTMAN
 DOUBLE - KIDNEY
 DUSKY - SALLOW
 DUSKY - THORN
 EARLY GREY
 EAR MOTH
 FANFOOT
 FEATHERED - GOTHIC
 FESTOON

FIERY - CLEARWING
 FLAME
 FLOUNCED - RUSTIC
 FOX - MOTH
 FROSTED - ORANGE
 GHOST - SWIFT
 GOAT - MOTH
 LARCH - PUG
 OLD LADY
 PEACH - BLOSSOM
 POPLAR - KITTEN
 SAXON
 SCARCE - PROMINENT
 SHARK
 SMALL - DUSTY - WAVE
 TISSUE
 TRUE - LOVER'S - KNOT
 UNCERTAIN

ANSWERS

SOME BRITISH MOTHS



BRICK

BURNISHED - BRASS
BUTTONED - SNOUT
CINNABAR
CLOUDED - MAGPIE
CONFUSED
COUSIN - GERMAN
DARK - SPECTACLE
DARK - SPINACH
DEW - MOTH
DINGY - FOOTMAN
DOUBLE - KIDNEY
DUSKY - SALLOW
DUSKY - THORN
EARLY GREY
EAR MOTH
FANFOOT
FEATHERED - GOTHIC
FESTOON

FIERY - CLEARWING

FLAME
FLOUNCED - RUSTIC
FOX - MOTH
FROSTED - ORANGE
GHOST - SWIFT
GOAT - MOTH
LARCH - PUG
OLD LADY
PEACH - BLOSSOM
POPLAR - KITTEN
SAXON
SCARCE - PROMINENT
SHARK
SMALL - DUSTY - WAVE
TISSUE
TRUE - LOVER'S - KNOT
UNCERTAIN

gardening is an instrument of grace
May Sarton



Unless otherwise stated - All design, puzzle creation, text and photos K.Hubbard© 2019

CINNABAR

Tyria jacobaeae



Photo - Wikipedia

A striped caterpillar which becomes this bright moth is a very useful friend to us and to be welcomed on our plots because it eats groundsel. One of the many beneficial insect species that help us.

OPEN DAY in photos 18th August 2019

JUDGE **Josie Hutchinson**

COMPETITION RESULTS

'ART - related to our allotments'

Special thanks to Mrs D Carnall for donating the 'Best Newcomer Plot' Trophy. Engraving by P. Edwards



1st Prize **GOLD**

Elsie Hillman 7.5yrs Plot 61a



3rd Prize Sophia 4yrs Plot 26b



2nd Prize **SILVER**

Sue Blaxland Plot 10a



Josie and Paul Windridge at work inspecting every exhibit very carefully



BEST NEWCOMER PLOT 61b Trophy presented to Mark Cherry by Richard & Paul



1st **BEST VEG BOX** Gary Pallatt 17b
This is Gary & Paula's first season

BEST ART Elsie Hillman 61a receives her certificate from Josie Hutchinson.

2nd **BEST VEG BOX** Richard Thorpe 15b
3rd **BEST VEG BOX** Shane Briggs 53b

BEST USE OF PRODUCE - Helen Lake 63b

Thanks to all who supported the event by coming along, entering competitions or helping on the day



Loved your spring blossom Elsie. KH



Master Composter David (2nd L) & wife Janet had many interested visitor questions about topical recycling of plot waste, including from plot holders & people who are signed up to the waiting list.

Thanks to Leicestershire County Council Master Composter Coordinator Matthew Copley.