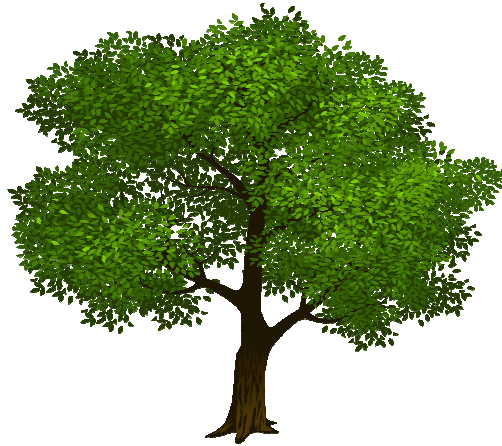


Syston Allotment Society NEWSLETTER



Spring to Summer 2019

Welcome to the Spring to Summer 2019 newsletter. Whether you are an existing or new plot holder this season there will hopefully be items of interest or details worthy of note in this edition. Remember, you can access ongoing information, facts, opinion, news and humour on the allotment facebook page and factual notices on the noticeboard near the gate and see the archive of past newsletters etc on our Syston allotments website.

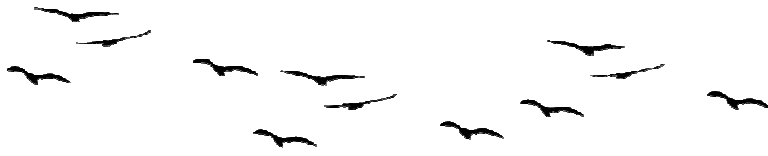
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/103768843053>
<https://www.systonallotmentsociety.uk>

Nothing beats good old word of mouth, so make the most of plot holder wisdom, swapping ideas is a good way to start a conversation and make new friends.

I'm sure we are all collectively wishing for a productive season with as much familiar and manageable growing weather as possible in these climate changing times. The extremes of 2018's meteorological challenges and charms will stay vividly in our minds as we go onward into the new growing year. It is useful to have a community of growers to share tips and experience for coping. Not to be deterred, we gardeners adapt.

If you have been scratching your head and wondering if the Autumn/ Winter edition passed you by, no, you did not blink and miss it, there was no newsletter due to unforeseen health circumstances, my apologies KH.





Has anyone noticed the decline in birdlife at the allotments?
Does anyone fancy organising an allotment bird count?
Please be very mindful where you put poison if you still use it

NEWS AND NOTICES

AGM

Tuesday 19th March 2019
Syston & District Social club
19:45 for 8pm prompt start.

You are invited to join us for this annual event. It's the biggest opportunity to have a drink and mingle with other plot holders, have your say, vote and learn about allotment business. It is usually well attended. Remember all can attend the monthly committee meetings in the same venue on the first Thursday of month.

PLANT SALE

Saturday 18th May 2019
Town Square
9am to lunchtime

If you would like to join in by contributing plants (by the day before please) or volunteering on the day please contact a member of the committee. This is a popular public event and 2018 saw our very best fundraising despite or perhaps because of clashing with Prince Harry and Meghans wedding.

BONFIRES

Remember to have your last allotment bonfires by Sunday 31st March when BST begins. After that, we can have them again when GMT begins again on Sunday 27th Oct.

Many experienced plot holders aim to have their fires around Bonfire night and Diwali which both blend in to the general community activities of Autumn. Particularly on sunny or windy afternoons please be considerate to other plot holders and neighbours, including the tennis courts.

WATER

Soon the mains water will be switched back on, heralding the warmer weather returning. Please as always, continue to predominantly use the Well water whenever possible.

Our mains water bill is usually in the region of £300 - £400 and inevitably due to the prolonged dry and intense heat of summer 2018, there was an increased spike in usage and cost to £600. Let's hope 2019 reverts to usual norms

SYSTON TOWN COUNCIL RULES AMENDMENTS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Syston Town Council (not the allotment committee) administers the allotment rules, some basic rules are part of that duty of care. There were some small amendments made in 2018. Please acquaint yourself with the full details whether you are an existing or new plot holder. Amended rules are printed in this edition (also found online & circulated at subscription time).

Items amended

- 3 - Untended plots
- 12 - Sheds and structures
- 18 - Livestock
- 19 - Vacating plots

Please also note

- 5 - No Parking.
Strictly no parking -
Loading and unloading
only. New signage.

Please be courteous ~
When unloading / loading
please do jobs in the least
possible time, as even just
1 parked car creates issues
2-3 cars creates friction
and a traffic jam that
becomes time consuming
and frustrating to all.



NEWS AND NOTICES

Continued ...

OPEN DAY

Sunday 18th August 2019

CALL OUT for entrants to the informal competitions and for helpers for the event. Keep an eye on fb and the notice board as the season progresses, for details of any different competitions otherwise assume they are the usual categories (find these online or in the previous newsletters).

NB After the increasing numbers of entrants and time consuming confusion last time, this year we are saying that **ALL THE ENTRIES MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION** with your name and plot number securely attached **or they will have to be DISQUALIFIED and will not be judged.**

This Open Day event has become popular in our summer calendar and the competition entries have been steadily growing each year. So we look forward to seeing your veggies and resulting Use of Produce 2019.

NEW MEMBERS

It is essential that we all play a part in encouraging other local people (with addresses in the parish of Syston) to join our waiting list and keep the future of the allotments looking healthy. Remember that as well as individuals, groups can also join as long as they have a local addressee who remains responsible overall.

From time to time we encourage new members by way of the local STN magazine, but word of mouth is still a powerful tool even in these days of social media. If everyone could get just one new name added, that would be a very respectable 122 names on the waiting list.

NEW SIGNAGE FOR SYSTON ALLOTMENTS

We have had a committed 'working party' of plot holders getting together and designing and making a new sign for our allotments, to celebrate our presence here in Syston for over 100 years on the same 7 acre site. Something our community can be proud of. Thanks to all involved. Look out for it soon.

MUCK

Need manure? One possible source of the magical stuff in 2019: c/o Adam Nadolski 07 849 414 686. Mention that Paul Windridge has supplied his number.

..... It might be a good idea to get a few people together in order to get a manure delivery collectively. If other people know of good suppliers, please let us know as muck from one source won't last forever. Remember the best manure is organic ie that which will not have any traces of herbicides like aminopyralid & antibiotics.



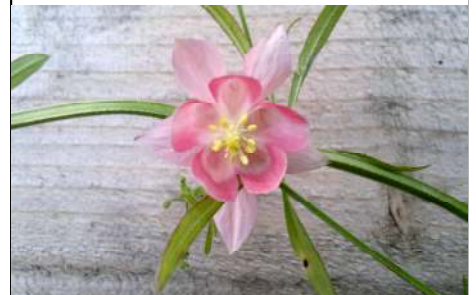
THE CABIN SHOP

The cabin shop is exploring additional ways to sell and perhaps deliver supplies to plots, potentially to be including 'click and collect' online methods. Mark Cherry is facilitating this. Keep your eyes peeled for more info as this progresses. The existing shop and methods will continue.

MYSTERY TO IDENTIFY

Can anyone help guess what this pretty plant /flower this is?

It is commonly found at the allotments, but not many see it, why might that be?



... because we eradicate it as a weed long before it flowers as beautifully as this. (for good reason really, as each has up to 400 seeds)

For more on this, see the page 7

SLUG PELLETT BAN

REMEMBER the ban on all slug pellets containing the chemical: METALDEHYDE comes into effect by the Spring of 2020 because of the recognised unacceptable risk to mammals and birds. The ban will also stop farmers from creating wide spread pollution of rivers and freshwater with these toxic pellets.

The World Health Organisation classifies **metaldehyde** as a class II "moderately hazardous" pesticide, while the Pesticide Action Network UK says it is "highly toxic by inhalation, moderately toxic by ingestion and slightly toxic by dermal absorption".

Defra secretary Michael Gove announced the decision to ban the pesticide following advice from the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

"It is clear that the risks to wildlife are simply too great – and we must all play our part in helping to protect the environment," Mr Gove said.

All farmers, landowners and increasingly allotment plot holders and gardeners of any sized space, all now collectively play a crucial role in improving declining wildlife numbers already recognised as being in trouble and maintaining species numbers on the brink of threat, or currently stable.

We all share a responsibility to be custodians for nature, our local and wider environment and the general biodiversity of Britain. We can all take ownership to feel empowered to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem, by phasing out chemicals by the end of 2019.

COMING INTO LAW IN 2020

It is important to remember there has never been a 100% successful method of slug and snail eradication, chemical or otherwise, only ideas that help minimise.

There are varied organic methods available to try and for die hard chemical users, there are still some other chemical methods still on the market that will be legal to use, though all are to be used with caution as some are harmful to soil life, such as worms and beetles that are important and much needed for balanced soil quality.

'Just because we can, doesn't mean we should'
English Proverb

The Garden Organic Catalogue is one supplier of reputable advice on alternative methods:

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/slugs-and-snails>

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds [RSPB] is concerned that slug pellets may be responsible for the decline in Britain's bird population.

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/animal-deterrents/organic-pest-control/non-toxic-slug-control/

Comparisons and details of chemical methods:

www.gardenmyths.com/slug-bait-metaldehyde-iron-phosphate/

If we adopt the thinking that every living thing is useful for something, even if it is as food lower down on the food chain and not for us directly, then we improve our gardening tolerance and ultimately our relaxation.

POISONED WILDLIFE - FOR ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO
Please refer to previous editions of this newsletter for advice on helping poisoned hedgehogs at the allotments. Hopefully poisonings will soon be a thing of the past. Our nearest rescue centre is c/o Pat, at 5 Barkby Road, Queniborough. LE7 3DA. 0116 260 6424. There are others available. It is helpful when taking a sick animal to any rescue centre to also contribute some food.

Sadly, due to the current frequency of inadvertent slug pellet poisonings at Syston allotments, surviving hedgehogs cannot be re released in their familiar territory. Perhaps this will change after the ban... we can hope.

WORDSEARCH**LEAF SHAPES**

WORDS ARE HIDDEN IN THE GRID. THEY MIGHT BE WRITTEN UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, FORWARDS OR DIAGONALLY.
TICK EACH WORD OFF THE LIST AS YOU GO

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

ACEROSE
CORDATE
ELLIPTIC
FALCATE
HASTATE
LANCEOLATE
LYRATE
OBOVATE

ORBICULAR
OVATE
PELTATE
RENIFORM
RUNCINATE
SAGITTATE
SPATULATE
SUBULATE



'Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky'
Kahlil Gibran

THE KNOLL ORCHARD

Thanks to all who came out to help weed the community orchard in November.

A cold and dry day in Autumn was made warmer by a couple of hours of hard work, a cuppa and some chatty company. These kind of social tasks are for any plot holder to join in with and all are welcome.



BEFORE



AFTER

Page 1 of 2 Allotment Rules

SYSTON TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT RULES

1. Syston Town Council hold full management responsibility for all plots.
2. All plots to be cultivated. The plots to be inspected twice a year by Council staff and Allotment Society Committee members.
3. Untended Plots
In the case of a plot not being maintained to a satisfactory standard, a letter giving 28 days' notice, in which to bring the plot up to standard, leniency may be allowed if the Council consider that there is a reasonable and unforeseen reason why the plot is not being managed. If the plot is still not up to standard, a second letter will be issued allowing a further 14 days. If, after this time the plot has not been brought up to a satisfactory standard, the plot holder forfeits their tenancy and no refund will be given.
If during the course of a calendar year, a first letter has already been issued, then any further warnings during that period will automatically start at the second letter.
4. All paths between plots to be kept clean to the centre.
5. Cars allowed on the Allotment site for loading and unloading only, no parking of vehicles in the turning area.
6. Member's dogs allowed providing they are under control and on a lead.
7. Any tenant finding him/herself unable to maintain all of the plot in a reasonable condition should inform the Town Council office and half of the plot will be offered to a suitable applicant from the waiting list.
8. Annual rentals to be paid in January. Any tenant failing to pay during January shall forfeit the plot and it shall be re-let.
9. Any plot found to be un-worked by the beginning of April will be re-let unless a valid reason is provided in advance to the Town Council.
10. Tenants shall not cause any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment garden or neighbouring properties. Bonfires are allowed only during the two hours before dusk and must be completely extinguished before being left. Bonfires are permitted only during the months of official British wintertime. Bonfires should not be lit near boundary fences and shall comprise waste materials from the allotment only.
Tenants shall not obstruct any path set out by the Council for the use of occupiers of allotment gardens.
11. Tenants shall not underlet, assign, or part with possession of the allotment garden or any part of it without the written consent of the Council.
12. Garden Sheds/structures
A shed measuring no more than 4.32 square metres (8ft x 6ft) is allowed. Securing your shed with a padlock or D-Lock is highly recommended, as is chaining up any equipment left inside them.
Syston Town Council are not responsible for any vandalism or damage to sheds and are not liable to pay any financial assistance towards repair of such buildings or fences
Sheds are not meant to be slept in overnight.
If a structure is in a state of disrepair and is a hazard to other plot holders, Syston Town Council can instruct the plot holder to remove the structure at the plot holders expense. If after 14 days of instruction the plot holder has taken no action, Syston Town Council will arrange for its removal and will invoice the plot holder accordingly.

Greenhouses

These can either be made of plastic or glass

Depending on the greenhouse's structure, it may require a firm base (concrete) and as such you will require written permission from Syston Town Council.

Polytunnels

The use of Polytunnels is allowed. Polytunnels can suffer from condensation so good ventilation is essential.

Cold frames

The use of cold frames is allowed.

13. Definition of the persons eligible to be tenants of the allotment gardens; Any man or woman, who at the time of application to the Council is resident in the Parish of Syston shall be eligible to become a tenant of an allotment garden. Anyone moving out of the Parish will automatically lose their entitlement to an Allotment.
14. Termination of tenancy of an allotment garden. The tenancy of an allotment garden shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing, terminate on the rent day next after the death of the tenant, but may be continued by the immediate family (providing they are residents of the Parish) in agreement with the Council. Tenancy may be terminated by the Council by re-entry after one month's notice if
 - a) the rent is not paid in January, or
 - b) if the tenant is not duly observing the Rules.
 affecting the allotment garden or any other term or condition of his tenancy. The tenancy may also be terminated by the tenant or Council by 12 months notice in writing, expiring on or before 6th April or on or after 29th September in any year.
15. Notices regarding the allotment gardens may be served either personally or by posting or leaving it at the tenant's last known place or abode, or by fixing the same in some conspicuous manner on the allotment garden.
16. Any allotment tenant whose tenancy is terminated under rules 3 or 9 shall be prohibited from renting another allotment plot within 10 years of the date of their letter of termination.
17. All allotment tenants shall be responsible for the control of any infestation of vermin or insects (including bees and wasps) which may occur on their allotment.
18. Livestock
The keeping of hens (not Cockerels) and rabbits is permitted as long as they are for your own use and not for business or profit.
The keeping of bees, pigs, goats and other livestock is subject to permission being granted from Syston Town Council.
19. Vacating a Plot
When vacating a plot, the plot holder must leave it in an acceptable condition for the next tenant. Any rubbish or poorly maintained structures should be cleared by the vacating plot holder. If they do not do so, Syston Town Council will arrange to clear the site and will invoice the vacating plot holder accordingly.
20. Tenants have a duty of care to store, use and dispose of any potentially harmful substances (e.g. glass, pesticides, fertilisers, oil etc). These must always be stored well out of reach of children and locked away. Tenants should contact the Borough Council waste management department for information of the safe disposal of surplus pesticides and fertilisers, asbestos-cement or other potentially dangerous materials. These should never be burnt, placed in skips, or poured away.

Allotment
Rules 2019
Continued

NOTE: Rule 10 amended by resolution of Council on 11/9/12 (minute 128/12), Rules 3, 12, 18 and 19 amended by resolution of Council on 13/2/18 (minute 520/17)



DID YOU IDENTIFY THE PLANT MYSTERY?

Well done if you know this specific variety of Cleaver, (**Galium Aparine**) that this is thought to be. There are over 400 varieties of Cleaver, in the wider Rubiaceae family of 3,000, so I am by no means certain which this is. I *thought* I knew it to be some type of Cleaver, (other common names:- Sticky-willy, sticky weed, sticky bud, sticky willow, sticky jack, Goose grass, Catch weed, Clivers, Grip Grass, bedstraw, robin-run-the-hedge, etc. but it could be



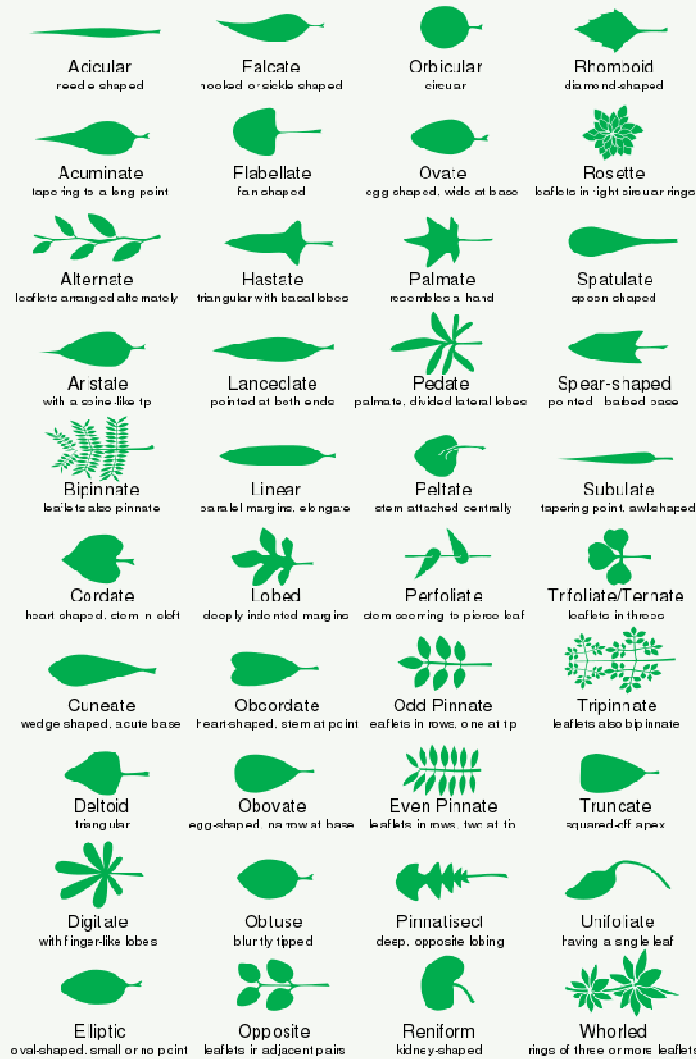
something completely different. After online searches and looking in RHS books, wildflower and medicinal herb books and asking around, I still have doubts if this is definitively a Cleaver, as the flowers differ so much from the common white varieties. **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Seen any of these yourself? If you think you have a better answer for solving this pretty plant mystery, please let Kate on plot 19b know. **ANYONE ELSE GOT MYSTERY PLANTS TO SHARE?** *In the ancient world Cleavers was used to treat cancer. It was thought Cleavers was a marvellous remedy for the bites of snakes, spiders and all venomous creatures. One of the founders of Roman medicine, Galen, described it as a cure for obesity writing 'it can make fat folk lean'. Cleavers is an old treatment for one of the toughest of all skin problems; psoriasis, it was even thought to be able to help dissolve small kidney stones! Caution: handling it can cause mild skin irritant.*



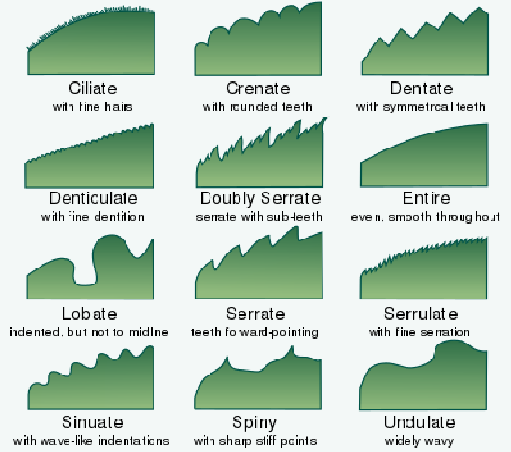
As with so many 'weeds' and wildflowers there are so many ancient and valuable medicinal uses for plants, if we learn enough to know how to use them properly. I wonder what has to be done with Cleaver to make fat folk lean??? The mind boggles!



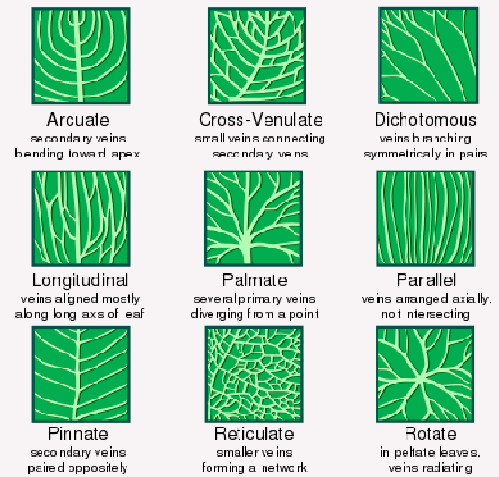
SHAPE & ARRANGEMENT



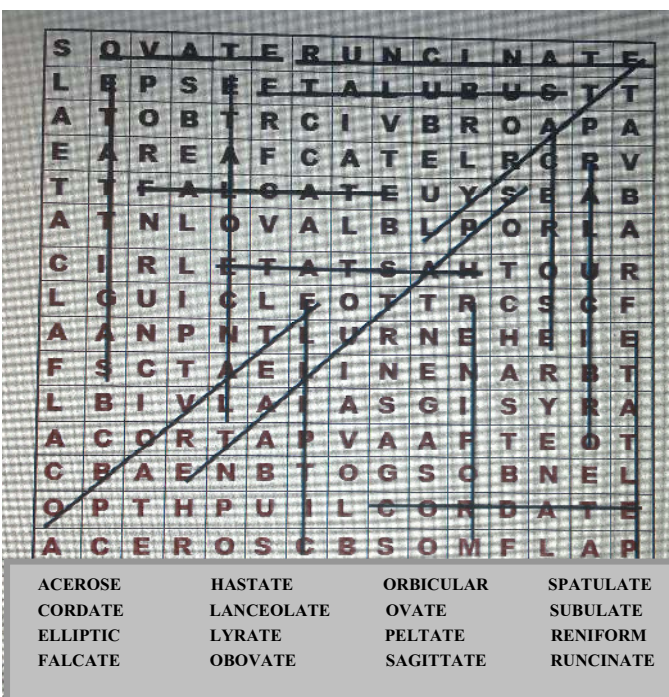
MARGIN



VENATION



WORDSEARCH ANSWERS LEAF SHAPES



JOIN IN ~ REMEMBER you can grow extra plants for the May fundraising PLANT SALE and enter informal competitions for the August OPEN DAY. Anyone can join in with activities, the more the merrier, talk to a committee member.



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