

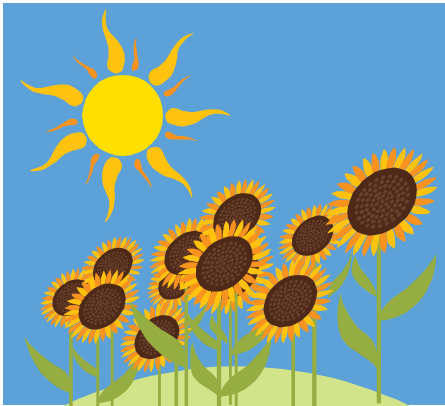
Weeder's Digest Summer 2011

It's back!

You may have noticed that in recent years the newsletter has been conspicuous by its absence. We hope to make future issues more frequent. You can help by letting us have your news and views and opinions, which we can publish anonymously. Send to store@vineryallotments.co.uk

The barbecue strikes again

Flushed with the success of previous barbecues, we have decided that the event this year will be held on July 9th. Email invitations have already gone out. If you didn't receive yours, please make sure we have your correct email address. You can also find printed invitations on display at both sites. There will be the usual allotment related quiz, with a fantastic prize.



Reflections on the drought - (from our secretary!)

We have had to cope with prolonged periods of dry weather, with no rain on even on days when we had cloudy weather. It seemed to rain in areas all around us, but not on the allotments. Such drought is rare, but not unknown. Some of us are old enough to remember the mid 1970s when a combination of oil crisis and two years of drought resulted in increased prices, not only of fruit and vegetables. One restaurant made a virtue out of this misfortune by including in its menu "baby" boiled potatoes. There was a massive increase in applications for allotment plots, although demand melted away once the crisis was over.

Is watering a waste of time?

For most of the spring, we were in a drought situation, which has led to the use of substantial quantities of water on the allotments.

If you feel you really must use water on the plot, please remember these helpful points

1. Our arrangements for the provision of water are unsophisticated to the point of primitive, involving the use of watering cans (and carrying them!)
2. Watering will never amount to the same quantity as proper rainfall or even an average shower. Even if the water actually does make it to the soil, it encourages surface rooting, which makes plants even more susceptible to drying out, since they don't grow the deep roots they need to reach what water lower down. Watering by hand won't reach the tap root—which is so called for a reason!
3. Don't water potatoes. Emptying cans of water on a row of potatoes is totally useless.
4. Don't water during the day if it is hot and/or sunny. This is a serious waste of time and water as the sun will evaporate off most of what you pour. So save any watering you do for the evening.
5. The cost of water is one of the largest expenses in the society' accounts. We are on a meter so we all pay more if more water is used.

More history

This year, the society is 87 years old. Its first set of rules was registered with the Registrar of Friendly Societies on 26th October 1924.

Trevor Taylor, June 2011

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday.