

GROUNDBREAKING!

Summer NEWSLETTER of Low Moor Allotments Association



ARSENIC CONTAMINATION AT FULFORD X

The possibility of the presence of arsenic in significant quantities on Fulford Cross allotments made headline news recently. In fact, the chemical traces were not found on the actual allotments, but on the adjacent school land, where local people remember quantities of hospital waste being dumped some decades ago. Tests continue to see whether any of the poison has reached the allotments, but as Tom Robinson, Site Secretary of Fulford Cross pointed out, the proof may be in the eating: "I've been taking veg from my plot for 40 years and it hasn't done me any harm." In any case, Low Moor, with its 1,000-year history of arable agriculture is completely immune from all possibility of contamination. So get back to work!

VANDALISM AND THEFT AT LOW MOOR

Unfortunately, Low Moor has been through a series of bad spells of vandalism and theft this year, including two arson attacks, thefts of tools and other potential boot-sale stock, and perhaps worst of all, repeated thefts of vegetables, which has been very rare in the past. As ever, there is only a limited amount that can be done. If you see a crime taking place, call the Police on 999 and Mayfair Security on 0800 783 7537. If you have a mobile phone, please take a moment to put Mayfair's number into the memory. And please keep reporting any crime or vandalism to the Police on 0845 60 60 24 7 with as many details as possible. We may not have seen many improvements, but the Police are at least aware now that allotment crime is a serious issue.

YET MORE BAD NEWS.....

Sadly, courgette yields have been higher than normal this year. Scarcroft Allots have produced a recipe book called *The Glutton Gourmet* which is available from all good Allotment Shops.

• NEWS...

ROTAVATOR

A reminder that you can hire the rotavator and/or strimmer for £10 per day. Phone Sarah O'Grady on 612301 to book.

PETANQUE PITCH

Thanks to Rebecca's Tuesday evening sessions, the pitch has seen a lot of use. To avoid damaging the playing surface in wet/frosty conditions, Tues 19th Sept will be the last session of '06. But help weed and enjoy a final bring-your-own BBQ on Sun 24 Sept, 11am to 2pm

2007 SEED ORDERS

A seed order form is attached: prices still absurdly cheap (5p for 100 spinach seeds!?) Please make sure you return your order to Frank or the Store by Mon 6th November, with correct payment.

NEW GREEN SKIPS

Please use them and keep green and non-green waste separate!

PROGRESS ON FOOTPATH DIVERSION

Our proposal to divert the public footpath and cycle way that runs through the site has temporarily stalled. At a meeting on site with representatives of the Police, the Council and the University, Al argued that the scheme was too expensive and complex for an Allotments association to handle and that it should be taken forward by the Council, with funding from central coffers and perhaps from Sustrans, the Cycle network. This was agreed to, but mysteriously, the Minutes of the meeting did not reflect that! If anyone wants to help push this project forward again, please get in touch with Al. Meanwhile, the perimeter hedge is growing nicely.

HEDGES AND BRAMBLES – ACT NOW!

YOU, yes you, are responsible for looking after the boundaries of your plot, outside as well as inside! Hedges and brambles which encroach into paths give the grass mowers an excuse for not doing the job properly and hedges over 1.5m (5 feet) high reduce the security of the site as a whole. Autumn is the time to cut hedges back and reduce their height where necessary to improve visibility across the site. It's almost time to prune back brambles to the main stems and tie these onto your fence, which will encourage them to produce more fruit next year. Eddy's plot, next to the car park, is always a good example of exactly what to do. Because much of Low Moor has been derelict in the past, the Council has been fairly tolerant of overgrown hedges till now, but all that will end this Autumn! If your boundary does not meet the requirements of the tenancy agreement by next Spring, this will be treated as grounds for eviction.

PROGRESS ON SHOP REBUILD

We have sorted out the tricky issue of our tenancy of the car park and a new design has been produced, which is intended to be more secure, without losing any of the eco-friendly features. It is about to be submitted to the Council for Planning Permission. We are still trying to raise additional funds, but Frank is convinced we have enough to afford it already, with the help of some volunteer labour in due course.

KIDS' ALLOTMENT

The Kids have cleaned up again at Fulford Show, winning 5 First Prizes and 1 2nd. Congratulations!

THE ELECTRIC WHEELBARROW

This scary machine, foretold by HG Wells, is now available for moving stuff up the hill

WAITING LIST

The waiting list for plots has risen to 54, or about 3 years.

GLOBAL WARMING?

Congratulations to Adam and Maja on Plot 103 for growing: 1 peach & 1 nectarine

CONTACT DETAILS

Contact Al Oswald on 639847 or by e-mail though the website.

NEW CHAIRPERSON NEEDED IN 2007

Al will be stepping down at the 2007 AGM. The role of Chairperson of York's largest Allotments is extremely lucrative* and allows you to wield limitless power.+ If you are willing to do this job, or to help in any other way, please contact Al today!

*that is, people often give you their spare courgettes.

+ well..... within limits.

PRICE LIST 2006-7

The seeds are purchased from a wholesaler who supplies farmers, smallholders etc. They are very cheap, but of the highest quality!

Your seed order will be available for collection at the Shop on:
Saturday 18th November, 12 - 2pm & Sunday 19th November, 10am - 12
Saturday 25th November, 12 - 2pm & Sunday 26th November, 10am - 12

Potatoes, onion sets and shallots will be available for collection on:
Saturday 3rd February 2007, 12 - 2pm & Sunday 4th Feb, 10am - 12

When you collect your order, you will pay a £2 fee, as last year. Of this £1 will go towards running the Shop and £1 towards running the Association. By paying, you will become a Member of the Association for 2007.

Make your cheque payable to 'Low Moor Gardeners' Store' and send it to:
Frank Smith, 2 Half Moon Court, Wheldrake, York YO19 6AA
TO ARRIVE BY MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2006 AT THE LATEST
If necessary, you can contact Frank on 01904 448409 or e-mail
franksmith888@yahoo.com

Frank again deserves a huge thank you from us all for all his hard work.

TOTAL VALUE OF ORDER (seeds, potatoes, onion sets & shallots):

YOUR NAME:

PLOT NUMBER (if known):

ADDRESS:

PHONE NO:

E-MAIL:

SIGNATURE:

PLEASE KEEP A NOTE OF WHAT YOU ORDER AND REMEMBER:
ALL ORDERS MUST ARRIVE BY MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER

use this handy blank space to keep a record of what you order!

ONION SETS AND SHALLOTS

All onion sets and shallot are priced at 70p per half kilogram (1.1lbs) (approximately 150 onion sets). Minimum order for each variety: half a kilo.

	QUANTITY (min ½ kilo @ 70p)	PRICE
ONION SETS: STURON popular high-yielding variety, harvest in late July, excellent for storage		
ONION SETS: RED BARRON superb quality red onion, thick-necked, moderately good for storage		
SHALLOTS GOLDEN GOURMET high yielding, excellent for storage		
ONION SEEDS: F1 SONIC Japanese 'spring onion', very early crop, for sowing late Aug – early Sept.	(min 100 seeds @ 30p)	
ONION WHITE LISBON - ORGANIC - Standard spring onion variety	(min 200 seeds @ 15p)	

ONIONS AND SHALLOTS SUB-TOTAL PRICE:

SCOTTISH SEED POTATOES

All varieties of potato are priced at 70p per kilogram (2.2lbs) (approximately 20 tubers, depending on variety). Minimum order for each variety: one kilo.

asterisked varieties have good blight resistance.	QUANTITY (minimum 1 kilo @ 70p)	PRICE
<u>'FIRST EARLY' VARIETIES</u>		
ARRAN PILOT		
HOMEGUARD		
PENTLAND JAVELIN		
DUKE OF YORK		
MARIS BARD		
ROCKET		
RED DUKE OF YORK		
INTERNATIONAL KIDNEY (Jersey Royal)		
<u>'SECOND EARLY' VARIETIES</u>		
NICOLA		
MARIS PEER		
WILJA		
KESTREL		
CHARLOTTE		
<u>'MAINCROP' VARIETIES</u>		
MARIS PIPER		
DESIREE		
KING EDWARD		
PINK FIR APPLE		
SANTE		
ROMANO		
GOLDEN WONDER		
CARA		

please note that due to the hot summer, some potato varieties are in short supply, so Frank is ordering earlier than usual to avoid disappointment!

SEED POTATOES: SUB-TOTAL PRICE:

SEED ORDER PAGE 1 varieties in alphabetical order, sort of.	seeds per packet	price per packet	number of packets	price
BEETROOT BOLTARDY Good resistance to bolting, good internal colour	200	25p		
BROAD BEAN MASTERPIECE GRN LONGPOD Very good flavour and quality	40	50p		
BROAD BEAN THE SUTTON Dwarf variety, growing to 45cm high. 6-8 beans per pod.	40	50p		
BROAD BEAN AQUADULCE Winter hardy for autumn sowing, 6-8 beans per pod	40	50p		
CLIMBING FRENCH BEAN COBRA Vigorous, long harvest period, stringless beans	90	65p		
DWARF FRENCH BEAN TENDERGREEN Pencil-podded stringless beans	120	45p		
RUNNER BEAN POLESTAR Moderately early crop, straight, stringless pods.	35	65p		
BROCCOLI, PURPLE SPROUTING RUDOLPH Early crop, harvest June – Feb, high quality	100	20p		
BRUSSELS SPROUT TRAFALGAR F1 Tall variety, cropping Nov-Dec	30	45p		
BRUSSELS SPROUT WELLINGTON F1 Winter hardy, harvest Dec – Mar	30	45p		
CABBAGE ADVANTAGE F1 Pointed greens in spring, summer and winter	35	30p		
CABBAGE TUNDRA F1 HYBRID Winter hardy, late maturing, stands up well	30	50p		
RED CABBAGE RED DRUMMOND Solid, round hearts	90	10p		
CALABRESE (BROCCOLI) GREEN SPROUTING Many side shoots, sow Apr for harvest in early Aug	150	25p		
CARROT FLYAWAY F1 HYBRID Smooth skin, some resistance to carrot fly	300	45p		
CARROT EARLY NANTES Early 'maincrop', harvest Jul – Oct, good flavour	1000	25p		
CARROT AUTUMN KING Late maturing, good shape	1000	20p		
CAULIFLOWER AUTUMN GIANT Popular late variety	100	20p		
CAULIFLOWER RAFAEL F1 HYBRID Harvest Oct – Dec, compact, uniform, pure white	30	£1-20		
CELERIAC GOLDEN SELF-BLANCHING Will self-blanch if block-planted	750	25p		
CHARD BRIGHT LIGHTS Range of colours: white, yellow, orange, pink, red	50	30p		
CUCUMBER BURPLESS TASTY GREEN Outdoor variety, medium to long fruits	10	40p		
COURGETTE BAMBINO F1 Heavy yields, dark green baby fruits, edible flowers	6	40p		
COURGETTE ZUCCINI F1 HYBRID Very prolific (but then, aren't they all??)	6	35p		
KOHL RABI QUICKSTAR Green-skinned flat bulbs, matures fast, slow to bolt	35	35p		

SUB-TOTAL PRICE – THIS PAGE ONLY:

PAGE 2 varieties in alphabetical order, sort of.	seeds/ packet	price/ packet	n ^o of packets	price
KALE Dark green curly leaves, hardy	150	20p		
LETTUCE ICEBURG Large white hearts, essential for Caesar salads	120	10p		
LETTUCE LOLLO ROSSO Red-tinged leaves, does not form a heart.	150	10p		
LETTUCE LITTLE GEM Small 'Cos' type, with compact heart	140	10p		
LETTUCE ALL YEAR ROUND 'Second Early' 'Butterhead', compact, slow to bolt	140	20p		
LETTUCE BABYLON 'Iceberg' type, with attractive greeny bronze leaves	150	20p		
LEEK MUSSELBURGH Long thick stems for Dec harvest	250	30p		
PARSLEY BRAVOUR Moss curled type	100	10p		
PARSNIP AVONRESISTER Canker resistant	125	40p		
PARSNIP GLADIATOR F1 HYBRID Good resistance to cankers	125	40p		
PEA - SUGAR SNAP DELIKETT Harvests over long period, stringless, grows to 65cm	250	45p		
PEA ONWARD Reliable, high yields of large peas (mice love them)	250	40p		
PEA KELVEDON WONDER 'Second Early Maincrop' dwarf variety, high yields	250	40p		
PEPPER MARCONI RED – ORGANIC- Sweet pepper, sow under glass	30	10p		
PUMPKIN GHOSTRIDER – ORGANIC – 6–8 kgs elongated globe shape	6	40p		
PUMPKIN JACK OF ALL TRADES Right size and colour for Hallowe'en	6	35p		
RADISH FRENCH BREAKFAST Oval-shaped with white tip, fast maturing	80	10p		
SPINACH EMILIA F1 HYBRID Sow Apr or Oct, fast growing, dark green leaves	100	5p		
SWEETCORN TRUE GOLD – ORGANIC – Large cobs up to 30cm long	30	40p		
SWEETCORN INCREDIBLE F1 HYBRID High quality: good flavour and sweetness	35	35p		
SQUASH EARLY BUTTERNUT Strong, orange flesh, good for storage	6	25p		
SWEDE INVITATION Winter-hardy, resistant to club-root and powdery mildew	400	20p		
TOMATO TUMBLING TOM RED Cascading sweet-flavoured cherry fruits	9	35p		
TOMATO MATINA Early maturing, intense red colour, outdoor variety	20	20p		
TOMATO MOUNTAIN PRIDE Outdoor variety, large 'Beefsteak' type, large fruits	9	30p		

SUB-TOTAL PRICE THIS PAGE:

ALL VEGETABLE SEEDS: SUB-TOTAL PRICE (BOTH PAGES):