



March Newsletter

“Springtime is the land awaking.
The March winds are the mornings yawn”
Lewis Grizzard

Time flies as we approach the spring equinox on the 21st March, the hours of daylight having been lengthening providing us with more time to spend in the garden or on the allotment. March is the time to profit from the winter digging and finally get the ground ready to take plants and seeds once the soil warms a little. Under cover or on a handy windowsill all manner of seeds can be started, advice on sowing is readily available on the back of the seed packet.

Over the winter months there have been some excellent and very informative zoom talks by the National Vegetable/Chrysanthemum Societies. Whilst the chrysanthemum talks were subject based the NVS talks covered a whole raft of talks on vegetables and related subjects. I paraphrased a such a talk on growing quality vegetables from a small garden/allotment which is on the website and can be accessed by following this link: <https://www.northlincolnhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/articles>

I have been busy rooting around 250 chrysanthemum cuttings since the end of January. All from exhibition stock, either my own or colleagues within the National Chrysanthemum Society. The majority are my exhibition large singles and for the first time some medium singles as an aside. In addition, I have rooted some 70 spray chrysanthemums which I will be giving to members who come along to my talk following the AGM on 3rd April; the catch is that those taking the cuttings will be expected to put vase in our September show.

Potatoes should be chitting well by now, normally they take between four to six weeks but if they haven't started to chit it may well be that the sun has not been strong enough to bring them out of dormancy. For planting the ground temperature should be around 8deg and traditional dates are around 17th March and/or Good Friday 29th March. Onions, shallots and broad beans that have been started in pots can be planted outside.



The Store has plenty of composts, manure and fertilisers for sale, opening every Saturday morning between 9am and 1130am.

Society News

Fortunately we have not seen any further evidence of vandalism on the allotments and following these incident the gates to allotments have been locked; however, it appears that memories are short lived as just recently gates have been left not only unlocked but open. Those allotmenters who leave the gates unlocked or open are irresponsible as many have gardening equipment, plants etc, spending a lot of time cultivating their allotment only to have items stolen so please ensure that gates are closed and locked at all times.

The National Allotment Society Magazine ALM is available to download on the website link: <https://www.northlincolnhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/news-and-events>

The Store located on Clarence A Allotments Mount St is open each Saturday between 9am and 1130am for all your gardening/allotment requisites.

Dates for your diary:

AGM 3rd April 1930hrs - buffet. Talk by Mal Reynolds - Chrysanthemums - Mal will be providing some spray chrysanthemum cuttings free of charge, to Members, on the understanding that those taking the cuttings will enter a vase of sprays in our September Show. The varieties are weather proof and may be grown in the garden. Limited number of cuttings available. Talk is open to non-members.

Plant Sale to be notified.

21st June - 1900hrs - Summer Solstice Evening.

5th Sep - Garden Visit at Floral Media, Caunton, Newark.

14th Sep - NLHS Produce and Flower Show. Grandstand Community Centre