



BROOKFIELD
ALLOTMENTS

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- * When is the next work party and social event happening?
- * What's the news on that Japanese Knotweed?
- * Would you like to help run the site?

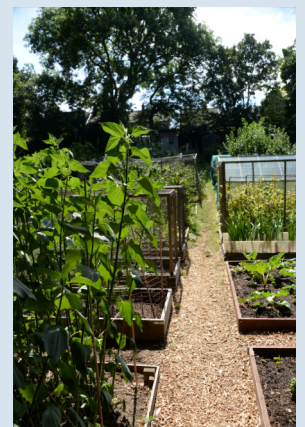
How can I water my plot if there is a hosepipe ban?

All this hot, dry weather has meant more watering to keep our crops alive and growing. Thank goodness the rain has been falling in recent days. A little less work with the watering cans and hosepipes for us all, and a little less demand upon the piped water on site to fill our cisterns and taps.

So far this summer, there has not been a hosepipe ban in our area. Thames Water does ask everyone to be careful in their use of water. This helps to conserve water generally, and does help to keep our bills down. Watering with cans is generally more precise and less wasteful than using a hosepipe. Whether you use cans or a hosepipe, watering at either end of the day when the sun is low in the sky will reduce evaporation.

That said, If there is a hosepipe ban, this is what Thames Water says about use of water on allotments:

“A hosepipe can be used to water food crops at domestic premises or private allotments. This is only if it cannot be reasonably done by a watering can.”





Your Committee considers it would seem reasonable to use a hosepipe to fill water butts and reduce the need to carry watering cans a long distance. If a plotholder has real physical difficulty in carrying and using watering cans, then it would also seem reasonable for them to use a hosepipe directly on their food crops. We have recently had a slow leak in the water supply. As a result, we have had to turn off the supply from time to time, and to ask for help from the water company to investigate and trace the leak. We hope that once the leak has been located it can be fixed quickly and normal service will be resumed.

Our water usage is metered and charged. This year's usage is expected to be higher than last year, with an associated increase in the water bill we have to pay. This may mean a future increase in plot rents, and this will be discussed at the AGM. When is the next work party and social event happening?

You may have already heard about our plans for a workparty and BBQ/social event on Sunday 7th September. We now realise that this is the same date as The Picnic in the Park, organised by the Friends of The Highams Park. As many of you may want to attend both events, we have decided to move our work party to Saturday 6th September. Further details will follow, but please put this date in your diary and come along if you can.





What's the news on that Japanese Knotweed?

You may recall that at the end of March, a small patch of Japanese Knotweed was identified on Plot 49 on the other side of the Ching from the main site. The SMT has monitored this patch regularly. There are no more than a dozen stems above ground. These have now been sprayed carefully with glyphosate - which the RHS states is the "the most effective chemical control to tackle Japanese knotweed". We will continue to monitor this part of the allotment site, and we anticipate having to treat it again in 2026 to ensure complete eradication. Only when we are satisfied the knotweed has been eradicated will this half of Plot 49 be put to use.

Would you like to help run the site?

After several years as Committee Chair, Sue has decided to stand down after this year's AGM. Huge thanks are due to Sue for her contribution to running the site, and we will now need to fill at least one vacancy on the committee.

If you want to put something back into the site, have ideas about how best to run it and have a little time and energy to spare, you might want to stand for election to the committee at the AGM. Do ask existing members about what it involves.

A date for the AGM will be announced shortly. We will be preparing a short form for nominations to the Committee and sending this out to all plotholders in good time





before the meeting using email and WhatsApp. Details will also be posted on the notice boards.

Site Maintenance Team and Brookfield Allotment Committee



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