



BTC Allotment Newsletter

ISSUE 22
March 2022

MARCH JOBS

Hopefully by now we are now standing on the threshold of Spring and the new gardening season. The days are beginning to lengthen and although it may not feel like it at times the temperatures are slowly increasing day by day. More importantly the longer days are the real trigger to new growth and you will find that with the help of a little protection you can really go for those early sowings. They might not all make it but it is still worth a try and you will still have plenty of time to re-sow any misses. Your best friend this month is the weather man try to keep up to date with the local forecasts, better still ask the advice of the gardeners around you who have years of experience to draw on.

Sowing & Planting - Plant out early cultivars of potatoes as soon as possible and follow on planting out at regular intervals with the second earlies and first maincrops until the end of the month. A little bit of forward planning, don't be tempted to plant out more potatoes than you can protect from any frosty weather further down the line. Transplant any early peas, broad beans, cabbages or lettuce you may have started off earlier. Sow the seed of Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, broccoli, onions and leeks in short rows on a "nursery seed bed". These will be grown on to be transplanted in April.

Green Waste Collections - Unfortunately due to illness the Lengthsmen were unable to complete the recently scheduled collections. As they catch up with their work, we will be able to notify tenants of their rescheduled dates. These dates will be emailed to allotment holders and placed in the relevant notice boards. If you don't receive emails from us regarding the allotments please call 01803 859678 to confirm we have the correct address for you.

The Torbay Food Alliance - Last week we emailed a message from the Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust about their Allotment Buddy Scheme.

The Torbay Food Alliance was set up at the beginning of Covid and consists of the main food banks in Torbay. They work in unison to support people who have fallen on challenging times regarding loss of work, working on a minimum wage, fuel poverty who may now have to decide between heating costs or food. Referrals for food parcels are made via the Helpline.

There are a few projects in place and the Allotment Buddy Scheme is just one of these and a very important part of the effort to include fresh produce to tinned and packet food in the food parcels to ensure a basic nutritional level.

It would be wonderful if the allotment collective could donate a proportion of their produce to a food bank in the Alliance, a charity who works with families or community group who provides fresh cooked food. See the attached poster for details or contact Jacqueline on Jacqueline.nicholls1@nhs.net for further information and to get details of your possible Food Buddy.

Do you have spare produce?
Could you contribute a small proportion of what you grow on a regular basis? Can your allotment group

Become a Good Food Buddy!

Food Banks, local community centres and charities who provide food parcels or fresh affordable healthy meals for the local community would love a contribution from you. We can connect you with one in your local area. Become part of the buddy movement across Torbay



It's simple. Grow it, share it, do good.

Small acts of kindness can change our communities.
Feed a Child Torbay would also welcome fresh produce for families during the holidays.

Contact Jacqueline Nicholls, Community Development Coordinator to see who your allotment or garden veg patch could be buddied with!
E-mail: Jacqueline.nicholls1@nhs.net or call/text 07483331901