



### [What you should be doing in January](#)

January, like December, is usually a month of hard frosts although with global warming changing our climate, this prediction is hardly firm. The arctic weather we are experiencing at the moment has put on hold any attempts of working the allotment plot.

#### **Harvest**

Leeks may be standing ready but if a long freeze seems likely you can dig some up and heel them in to dug ground for easy access—unless you have deep snow, like at present.

Parsnips & Swedes in the ground can come up when you are ready, cover with fleece or straw to stop them freezing solid into the ground.

The cabbage family should be providing some sustenance beet leaves (perpetual spinach) and chards will be available.

On a sunny day (that's a laugh at the moment) it is worth emptying your potato sacks and check for any that are starting to rot before it spreads.

#### **General Jobs in the allotment plot**

In the ideal world you will have finished digging over., creating leaf mould heaps, etc as you can in December. If like me you are always behind, try to catch up digging over now, if we have a fine day. You will also have the benefit of exposing pests in the soil which will be eaten by friendly birds as the Robin.

As you harvest brassicas dig up the stems and turn the ground over. Because the compost heap will be cold and slow at this time of year, you always bury these in the bottom of a trench along with some kitchen waste to prepare for the runner beans later in the year.




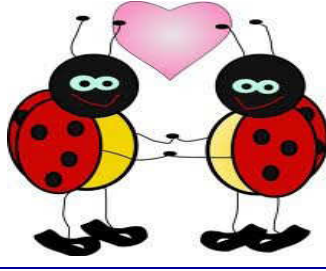
#### **Sowing, Planting and Cultivating**

January is not the month for outdoor planting although you may be able to make use of your greenhouse or poly tunnel especially if you can keep the house frost free. Unless you have specialist equipment its always a gamble

Contact the committee: [allotmenteer@outlook.com](mailto:allotmenteer@outlook.com)

website: new site to be announced soon

## Calendar of events 2015

<p><b>January 2015</b></p>	<p><b>February 2015</b></p>	<p><b>March 2015</b></p>
<p><b>April 2015</b> Easter Festivities</p> 	<p><b>May 2015</b> Bacon butty morning</p> 	<p><b>June 2015</b></p>
<p><b>July 2015</b> Patchway Festival - Lottie open to public – BBQ, table top activities and scare-crow competition</p>  <p>.....</p>	<p><b>August 2015</b> Wine &amp; Cheese Party</p> 	<p><b>September 2015</b></p>
<p><b>October 2015</b></p>	<p><b>November 2015</b></p>	<p><b>December 2015</b></p>

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## **Planting Early Potatoes**

### **What to grow**

There are dozens of different potato varieties, usually described as early, second early and main crop potatoes. These names indicate when they crop and also give you an idea of the space you'll need, how closely and when they can be planted.

You should concentrate on the earlier types if you're short of space, and it's also worth remembering that earlies are less likely to encounter pest problems as they're lifted so much earlier in the year.

### **Future Events**

You will see from the Calendar of events for 2015 that we have four events this year. Easter Festivities during April. A Bacon Butty morning in May. Patchway Festival in July & a Wine & Cheese party in August. At the moment we don't know the exact dates and times, but the Committee will be discussing at the next committee meeting March and will post the dates on the Notice boards by the gate and in the kitchen of the shed.

If there are any plot holders with new ideas for events this year please contact the committee on the official email address : [allotmenteer@outlook.com](mailto:allotmenteer@outlook.com) You can of course just let a committee member know and we will consider any events, if there is sufficient funds.

### **AOB**

The Committee are in the process of starting a new website and we will let you know all the details of website address etc. as soon as we possibly can.

The Committee are looking at erecting two compost bins at each end of the site and have them constructed by qualified tradesmen to ensure a safe and quality construction is carried out. We will notify you of the developments in the near future.

Can member plot holders, please submit to me any ideas of any aspect of growing your own vegetables and these will be included in the future Newsletters.

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