



# May 2026 News Update

*of the Leapool Allotment Association*

## Upcoming Rule Changes

We have recently had a discussion with a local representative of the National Allotment Society. During this conversation, it became apparent that there are some irregularities in our current constitution and rules that we are keen to address as soon as possible.

An important issue raised by the NAS is that any proposed rule changes should be presented to the full membership at an AGM or EGM. Our existing Constitution does not include this requirement, and historically the committee has made such amendments as and when necessary. Following our discussions with the NAS representative, we now recognise that our Rules and Regulations document needs a comprehensive review.

Our intention is to complete this work in time for the AGM in September. Before then, we will circulate a draft version to all members so that everyone has the opportunity to read it and provide comments or suggestions. This should help ensure that, when the AGM takes place, a formal vote can proceed without the need for lengthy debate. We will also need to update the constitution to reflect the revised process for approving rule changes.

Please look out for further communication on this matter and make sure you share your views so that the perspectives of all members can be fully considered. ■

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## RHS affiliation

The Leapool Allotment Association is now an RHS Affiliated Society. This costs us £47 annually and comes with a range of benefits. Among other things, we now have access to the following:

- A monthly copy of The Garden magazine (available in the community shed).
- Certificates and an engraved medal to present at our annual show and AGM.
- Access to the RHS Affiliated Societies Facebook group (use our membership number 40689721 to gain access).
- An RHS Garden entry card that can be used by up to two members at a time to get 50% off the cost of entry to any RHS garden
- A free annual visit to one of the five RHS Gardens for up to 55 of our members.

The 50% discount card will be kept in the Trading Post, so please drop by to collect the card, or to reserve the card for a future visit. We will shortly be sending out a survey to gauge interest in the free group visit and look into the possibility of hiring a coach.



## Trade Waste trial

Over the past few years, we have, from time to time, provided skips for members to dispose of rubbish from their plots. These have proved very popular but, unfortunately, they are also quite expensive. We have done some research into alternatives and have decided to trial providing two large Trade Waste bins – one in each car park – which will, hopefully, be more convenient for everyone at an annual cost to the Association only slightly higher than providing one large skip.

These bins do come with some conditions, though. Rubble such as broken paving slabs or bricks cannot be put in them and will need to be disposed of by individual members. We also ask that compostable material and metal waste are not put in the bins. We will continue to organise collections of scrap metal separately. Starting next month, the bins will be emptied monthly.

A notice will be displayed near each bin giving full details of what must not be put in them. Disregarding these rules will result in the service being terminated with immediate effect as the Council will not empty bins containing banned items. This would leave us having to dispose of the contents of the bins before the Council will take them away.

## Scrap metal collection

The next collection of scrap metal will be on Tuesday 9th June. Please place all items in the top car park and between the two Trading Post containers as previously.

Should you have any large metal items, these can be collected from a convenient place nearer your plot. Please contact the Committee to arrange this by emailing Marie, our Secretary, or by speaking to a member of the Committee.

A quantity of scrap metal has already been left in the top car park. Please do not leave scrap here until a metal collection is announced as it reduces



the availability of parking in what is already a very limited space.

## Trading Post Update

In addition to the regular opening times – Saturdays and Wednesdays, 10am - 12pm, we are trialling opening on Wednesday evenings between 5pm and 7pm. We hope this will be helpful to those whose working hours make it difficult to visit the Trading Post during morning opening hours. This trial will continue for the next two weeks so, if you like this idea, please make sure you call in on Wednesday 3rd or 10th June.

## Annual show and BBQ

Advance notice that our annual show and BBQ will be held on Saturday 1st August. Further details to follow but, in the meantime, please save the date!

### Contacts

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### Mini quiz

1. *Zea mays* is the binomial (Latin) name of which common summer crop?
2. Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*) originate on which continent?
3. The wild cabbage *Brassica oleracea* has been bred into many different vegetables. Which of these is **not** one of them?
  - Broccoli
  - Spinach
  - Kohlrabi
  - Kale
4. The potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) originated in which mountainous region?
  - Atlas mountains
  - Himalayas
  - Andes
  - Pyrenees
5. The *Solanaceae* family contains many popular vegetables including tomatoes, aubergines, sweet peppers, and chillies. But which of these poisonous plants is from the same family?
  - Poison hemlock
  - Hellebore
  - Deadly nightshade
  - Wolfsbane

Answers at bottom of page



Double rainbow over Leapool following recent thunderstorms