



Gardening Diary Spring 2024

It's nearly March and I have just had a great day in the vegetable plot. I am sat by my new greenhouse with a glass of wine, sadly not homemade. I love the kind of tired that comes from a lot of fresh air and a little sunshine.



Last evening I went for a walk so I thought I would share it with you. The sun was setting, as you can see, and I could hear geese in the distance with a goods train rumbling by. On the bank of the footpath are miniature daffodils and a robin is on the stone wall. Just a few steps more and I spot a jenny wren looking for a spider for its' supper

no doubt, which I have to say so am I – lamb casserole with root vegetables, from the garden of course. So back to the walk, I now find myself on the river which has flooded the surrounding fields and that is where the geese are and, to keep them company, mallard ducks. Wow, a kingfisher has just darted upstream – its' iridescent blue on a walk that will stay in my memory forever.

The new greenhouse is so good and it is already producing seedlings. It is now time to start sowing in earnest. In an unheated greenhouse – leeks, brussel sprouts and broad beans. Sow outdoors carrots, leeks, lettuces, onions and early peas. I am also going to plant my first early potatoes in bags again – they did so well. One of my favourite jobs in the gardening calendar is planting my shallots – I start them off on the windowsill, then outside under a cloche and then into the open ground to harvest end June, early July.

Now, speaking of harvest, we had sprouting broccoli with our Sunday lunch with leeks and the last of the parsnips – it was roast chicken, lush.

March is the time to start mowing the grass – I love the smell of freshly mown grass. It is a good time to look for wildlife – you may see Queen Wasps and Brimstone Butterflies – both a good sign spring has sprung.

At this time of the year, if you get up early in the morning you will hear the dawn chorus – the blackbird on a rooftop or maybe a song thrush in a nearby hedge or on a bush claiming its' feeding territory. They are so good in the garden smashing snails on the concrete path which is a giveaway that you have song thrushes in the garden. You will also have the benefit of its' cheerful song as you potter about.

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade".

Charles Dickens, Great Expectations

Have long walks and good gardening.

Regulation 14 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Hungerford Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Friday 16 February to Friday 29 March 2024

Have your say on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Copies of the Draft NDP and supporting documents are online.

You can comment on our website.

www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk



This QR code will take you to the consultation form.

You can also respond to the public consultation by:

- Email: townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
- Post: Town Council, The Library, Church Street, RG17 0JG
- Paper copies and a collection box are available in Hungerford Library, Church Street.

Your comments will inform the next draft of the NDP

Please come along to Hungerford's

Annual Town Meeting

**Wed
20th March 2024
7pm
Corn Exchange
(with refreshments from 6.30pm)**

Learn about our:

**Reg 14 Neighbourhood Plan Consultation
80th Anniversary of D-Day Event in June
and meet**

**Councillors, and local organisation including-
Town & Manor of Hungerford,
Hungerford Youth & Community, Hungerford Rugby
Club and many more**

**Browse the exhibition at your
leisure, ask questions and make your
views heard**

