

## Garden Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May Notes

### Review of Winter and Early Spring

Overall very good crops but

Propose to grow **Leeks for April** harvesting next year.

Suggestion to use crates lined with plastic compost bags to act as seed beds to help germinate crops away from allium miner

Discussion re trimming versus not trimming leeks when planting out. No real evidence noted it works.

**Rhubarb** has fruited very early. Proposal to try different varieties to fruit over a longer period including force some for very early fruiting

New **cold frames** are a success, 2 built so far, 3rd in production. No more acrylic so need to find more or buy some given need to propagate at this time of year. Acrylic is very bendy so suggestion is to adapt them to be easier to move. E.g. Cut in half or use wood to make rigid.

**Seed propagation trays** are starting to fall apart and many need renewal.

**Salads** - reduce some salad crops and grow carrots, beetroot or/ and kohlrabi in polytunnel next winter/spring

Tom Suffolk proposes to take cuttings of **Brachyglottis greyi** and eventually plant in the car park. Some reservations about the lack of light but no reason not to try

**Enviromesh** - some repairs needed with gaffa tape. Job for the weekend as quite important for the carrot beds.

Need to stop installing enviromesh too tight. Message to all members if seen.

**Rota for watering and opening and closing polytunnel** - agreed and to go on the website.

**Short bed side** - need to start building the bean pole frame and grass paths are a problem. Even though weeded they came back quickly. Agreed to rotavate at some stage and cover key paths with woodchip.

Do we need to start a new **comfrey bed**? Confirmed will buy some **Bocking 14** for next year in a new bed. This does not self-seed

Persist with **Jerusalem artichokes**. **Globe artichokes** lost some this year so propagate some this year. Propagate **Andean tubers** next year.

**Squash** - a number of last years had a scab on them. Is this due to growing in the same spot? We will review after this year's crop

**Autumn Onions** - first bed need thinning. We cropped too late last year, so we must begin to crop as new seasons onions

**Tithe** - idea was originally the spare crops but is 10% so need to sow specifically for the tithe to dedicate beds to deliver it. Regularly takes potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, radishes, lettuce, courgettes, runner beans. Sometimes takes cucumbers French beans and spring onions. Don't like beetroot. Should be more organised to cater for the tithe.

**Blackberries** - Tim has suckers ready to go in. Consensus is to plant on outside walls where there is space.

**Tools** - more rakes etc needed. Need different coloured string for different lengths of enviromesh / fleece/ nets for areas of the garden.

We need to organise **water stations** with tools better. Tim will look into this