

## April in the Garden

April is here and the vegetable garden is raked and ready for planting. Standing here, rake in hand I can hear the Skylark's shrill song as it hovers above the rapeseed crop in the field beyond. During this time when we are asked to stay at home, many of us in Capel are fortunate enough to have gardens that we can walk in, work on or look at.

The recent cold easterly winds have kept the soil temperature down. However, the broad beans are surviving, and some spinach seed has been sown.



The stretch of ground where the runner beans are to go has been opened up during the winter to accept all the vegetable peelings. Yesterday, I shredded some old bills, the shredded paper went into the open trench as a mulch before filling it in.

The onions are ready to be planted and runner beans are growing steadily.



The fruit garden is showing signs of budding and the rhubarb is already going into the crumble.





The fruit section consists of blackcurrant, redcurrants, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries and gooseberries, all ideal for jam making in the summer months, Despite the long periods of rain over recent months the soil is easy to work as it has a very sandy structure, therefore, it drains freely and is well suited to root vegetables such as carrots and beetroot. The cabbage can soon be planted out, they give the pigeons something to feed on



The greenhouse is gradually filling up as daytime temperatures rise.



On 'Home under the Hammer' you see houses in Derbyshire suffering subsidence because of old mining works below ground. My lawn is like that where the moles have been, now the voles have moved into the same tunnels, I suppose the Borrowers will be next. The shallow pond is teeming with tadpoles, occasionally they make way for the birds that come down for a wash.





In the Spring, yellow is very evident in the garden, daffodils, marsh marigolds and forsythia together with the oilseed rape over the fence.



There are many jobs that can be done in the flower garden, the roses and other shrubs need pruning. Some areas of the garden get overcrowded so plants can be lifted and moved. The sweet peas are itching to get out of the greenhouse.

