

## May in the Garden

As lock down continues, weeds don't stay in our garden for long. The recent rain has been most welcome although the tender young plant that have recently set foot in the garden did not enjoy the hailstones. Vegetables now planted or sown include potatoes, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, peas broad beans, runner beans, onions, beetroot, carrots and lettuce.



### Broad Beans

There are many flowers on the broad beans and the bees love them.



### Cabbage, Broccoli and Runner Beans.

It is necessary to net the cabbage and broccoli because our resident pigeons have a real passion for them.

As the first 3 months of this year were very wet, nutrients were washed through the soil, so to give the plants a start in life, a top dressing of Blood, Fish and Bone is used. However, where root vegetable such as carrots or parsnips are planted, top dressing is avoided to stop the vegetables splitting or branching out.

The onions having been transplanted to the garden are getting their roots established. We found a garden centre that was willing to deliver, so we topped up our multipurpose compost which allows us to pot on plants in the greenhouse.

Some busy lizzies have been moved to hanging pouches and trailing red and yellow tomatoes to hanging baskets. These will be kept in the greenhouse until the temperature rises.



### Hanging Pouches

Other plants will wait a little longer before transferring to hanging baskets, pots and planters.



In the fruit section of the garden things look promising with a good crop likely on blackberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, raspberries and strawberries, all good for jam making.

### Redcurrants forming



**Elsewhere, blossom adds Spring time colour to the garden.**



Last year I built a new nest box, a luxury apartment with astroturf flooring. I fitted it next to the old nest box, social distancing was not in force at the time.

This year, Blue Tits are using both nest boxes. There is a holly tree next to the boxes, with bird feeders close by. They use the bird feeders, then hop into the holly tree and pop out the other side into the nest boxes.

