

# Not sure what to do and no one here to ask?



If you'd like an idea of things to do, have a look here, find something appropriate for the season, and feel free to get on with it even if there's no one here as yet.

**Some things to note first:** where this refers to 'weeds' please only remove plants that you have agreed with core members should be removed, as many wild plants are welcome guests. Brambles (except for a few clumps identified on the map), ivy, bindweed and sedge can safely be removed.

**Brambles, bindweed and bamboo should NOT be placed on the compost heap;**

- Put **brambles** on the pile beneath the top path before the fruit cage.
- Put **bindweed** in the brown recycling bins until it is dry or rotted – then put it on the compost.
- Put **bamboo** out of reach of the ground in a visible location on or above the tea-spot (e.g. on a tarpaulin). Any little bit of root left in the ground will regrow. When it is dry it can be composted.

**Sharpen shears and secateurs** every time you use them. There are various sharpeners in the shed – if you're unsure how to do it please ask. Always replace tools into the shed.

**Clean shears, saws, and secateurs before and after using.** There is a tub with cloths and cleaner just inside the shed. Just give the blade a thorough (and very careful) wipe.

Please put tools away when you have finished and lock the shed if you are the last one to leave.

## **Jobs that can be done all year round:**

Keep the top path swept and clear of weeds as their roots break up the tarmac.

Keep the tea-spot and all paths clear by using shears or strimming grass.

Cut brambles as low to the ground as possible. Remove the roots if you can.

Pull out bindweed (be careful not to damage the plants it's climbing on). Remove the roots if you can.

If you spot any bamboo or horsetail, carefully remove as much of the root as possible. Likely locations are by/under the dead hedge (bamboo), and above the brook in the Jurassic zone (horsetail).

Ensure ponds and baths are clearly visible by cutting back overgrowth around them.

If a path is slippery, check the bins by the path down to the tea-spot – if there is woodchip in them, apply a thin layer to the slippery areas.

Clear debris (rotten fruit, leaves, weeds) around fruit trees and bushes.

If the boundary hedges are out of control, shear them back to around 6 feet high and a compact width.

If you see that something is ready for harvest and there hasn't been a notification of it already, post a message to [metfordroadorchard@yahoogroups.com](mailto:metfordroadorchard@yahoogroups.com) or one or more of the core members to share the information.

Likewise, if you spot something awry or that needs doing (e.g. broken steps, shed roof leaking, a new pest/disease/ invasive plant (or regrowth of something we thought we'd got rid of), please post a message to share the information. If you know what to do feel free to do it if you can.

Last, but not least, if you spot a pond with no escape route for frogs, angle a stick into it for them.



*Enjoy caring for a little piece of heaven!*