

# OTHAS NEWS



Newsletter of One Tree Hill Allotment Society – Easter 2026

## Contacts

Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/301436933291184/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/othas2026>

OTHAS mailing list [OTHAS@list.othas.org](mailto:OTHAS@list.othas.org)

OTHAS Committee [committee@othas.org](mailto:committee@othas.org)

## Events

### Dawn Chorus walk

#### **Saturday 10th May 2026 5.30 am**

Our friends the Friends of One Tree Hill will be taking a leisurely stroll around One Tree Hill and Brenchley Gardens from sunrise, to enjoy the birdsong and see which ones we can identify. The walk will be led by local bird enthusiast Pennie Hedge and friends. You can expect to see/hear 20 or more species, but the emphasis will be on opening your ears to this chorus of natural voices in the quiet of the morning.

Meet by St Augustine's Church gates at 5.30 am. The walk is expected to last for about two hours

### One Tree Hill Allotments Open Day

#### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 10:00 – 16:00**

This year the Open day will be held in September. This is an important day for the Allotment, not only does it give us an opportunity to raise money (to help keep the rent down), and it also provides an excellent way of keeping the support of the local community and publicising the benefits of allotment gardening.

More details will follow, but if you have any ideas for stalls, workshops, performances, displays or demonstrations, etc. please email Simon on [socialothas@gmail.com](mailto:socialothas@gmail.com)

### Nature walk Ladywell Cemetery

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 10:30 – 12:00 Ladywell gate**

Meet Tom Moulton and Peter Robinson for an informative walk around the cemeteries observing the copious amounts of wildflowers, birds and, hopefully, butterflies.

Your editor can thoroughly recommend this walk

### Spring Bird watch Nunhead Cemetery

#### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 6:45 Linden Grove Entrance**

### Discount at Two Spoons Cafe

After a few hours work on your plot you may wish to take advantage of the discount plot holders receive at Two Spoons

Cafébar [www.twospoons-cafebar.co.uk](http://www.twospoons-cafebar.co.uk)

72 Honor Oak Park

10% on coffee (up to 3 per person per visit)

10% on cocktails (up to 3 per person per visit)

To redeem the offer, you just need to use the code word Artichoke.

## News

### Water

Plot holders will have noticed that the water has been on and off in the last couple of months. This is because we have experienced several leaks. We pay £2.67 a cubic meter so each 10l (typical watering can) watering our allotments costs 2.7p.

We are currently fixing the leaks sorry for the continued disconnection.

If you see or suspect a leak please email the committee on [committee@othas.org](mailto:committee@othas.org) preferably with a photo to enable us to locate it



### Keeping the site tidy

Plot holders are requested not bring stuff on to site which ends up as rubbish or is stockpiled in an untidy heap. Carpets should never be brought on site

If you want to burn weeds and other organic material, please use the burn area or collective compost heap reducing individual burning and smouldering fires nuisance to your neighbours.

### Allotment Shelter

Work is well underway to create a shelter where the green container now stands. This has included cutting trees, clearing the green container and clearing logs. After extensive discussions on the committee, we have opted for a Walter Segal type structure like the Afril building below the burn area. The vision is a building we can sit in when it rains, perhaps have a shop, hold meetings and make teas. Plans are not fixed and if you are interested in contributing time to make this happen or have ideas on what we should be building please contact the committee on [committee@othas.org](mailto:committee@othas.org)



### Newts

Newts are common on the site have emerged from hibernation. You will find all the water butts on site have them but also be hiding in thick vegetation where they will have been hibernating.

They are a legally protected species which means you should do your best not to disturb them.



Common or Smooth Newt which we have on our plot



Newt egg laid in pond weed. Unlike Frogs, Newts lay eggs individually and rap the egg in the leaf of the pond weed.

#### **Newt facts**

**Scientific name:** Pleurodelinae

**Family:** Salamandridae

**Diet:** Carnivorous newts will eat anything they can catch, from worms and water snails to other invertebrates and insects

**Predators:** Birds, fish and other amphibians

**Size:** Between 7-11cm.

**Lifespan:** Between 10-27 years