

MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER

At last spring is here and things are growing again. There seems to be a lot of activity on the plots near me and my garlic is putting on a spurt at last.

Allotment Watch

The free advice leaflet about allotment security is now available. Please contact your site manager if you would like a copy or view a version of it on our web site as well as notice boards. The information is also of use to home owners backing onto or overlooking allotment sites. Tools stolen from allotments can be used to break into these properties so we need to work together to minimise the risk of this happening. If any plot holders live adjacent to the allotments perhaps they can pass on their thoughts as to how to get the message over to their neighbours.

Gates/Padlocks

The locks are being upgraded to a stronger model in an attempt to make them last longer. The same keys will fit so this should not cause any disruption. Please report any broken locks immediately. We will try to keep all the gates in use, but with the current failure rate, it may be necessary to close some gates. A lot of time and money has been invested in security but this is all for nothing if the gates are left open. I have had several reports of gates being unlocked overnight at the southern end. **Please ensure the gates are locked when you leave.**

Buildings

All sheds, greenhouses, chicken coops and fruit cages require permission of the site manager and a shed form is to be completed before the construction can go ahead. If you need a shed form please call 01489 589485 or e-mail thehuntspondlot@gmail.com.

Website

We have a new web master who is doing a great job in updating the website. Please visit WWAA.org to take a look. It is hoped to use the website as a means of communication with a “members only” log in. This could be the way forward to get knowledge and information out quickly, like in the case of blights alerts etc.

Plot Inspections

The spring plot inspections are taking place after Easter. Please note that paths and hedges are looked at as well as defined boundaries and clearly marked plot numbers. Here is a reminder of points to check which are in your tenancy agreement:

2.3 Cultivation: Plot should be clean and free of pernicious weeds and at least 80% cultivated.

2.9 Boundary Structures: the tenants must keep every hedge that forms part of the Allotment properly cut and trimmed and all ditches cleaned, and maintain and keep in repair any fences on the Allotment and preserve a one metre minimum clearance space between any boundary fence or hedge and the Allotment and use his best endeavours to protect any other hedges, fences or gates in the allotment field of which the Allotment forms part or in adjoining land.

Please advise your site manager at your earliest convenience if you have any health or personal reasons that prevent you from maintaining your plot. If we know of peoples circumstances, this can be taken into account when the site is inspected. If you no longer require your plot or do not have time for it, now is probably a good time to surrender it. We can let it to folks on the waiting list for cultivation this summer.

Trading Hut

The Trading Hut in Netley Road is open on Easter Sunday to provide you with most of your needs for your plot. This is handy as all the garden centres and DIY stores are shut.

Spud Bucket Challenge

NO, this is not videoing somebody tipping a bucket of potatoes over their heads for charity. The idea is simple; you take one bucket, one potato and a quantity of compost and see how many spuds you can grow in a given period. Participants all start on the same day. At the end of the growing period all the buckets are tipped out and the tubers counted. There can be categories' for the most potatoes, the greatest weight and the largest potato. It could be fun for young and old alike and get the season off to a good start. If you think you or your children would like to have a go please contact us for more details. Numbers will be limited and we will only proceed if there is enough interest.