

# **HUNTS POND ROAD NEWSLETTER**

## **January/February 2015**

Happy New Year to all plot holders old and new. I hope we can extend a warm welcome to all new plot holders of which there are quite a few. New blood is vital to keeping the site in good order. Please offer help and advice if needed to newcomers, we have all been there. I am often amazed at how quickly some people transform their patch of ground, but others struggle a bit at first and a little advice never goes amiss.

### **TRADING HUT**

Just a reminder that WWAA has its own shop. Open every Sunday from 25<sup>th</sup> January to November from 10.00 to 12.00 offering a wide range of useful things from seed potatoes to fertilizers, all at very competitive rates, plus free advice from the friendly volunteers who man the trading hut. We are hoping to have the "Hunts Pond Honey" on sale later in the year. Please check in the Trading Hut or watch notice boards for details.

### **THE HEDGE AND DITCH**

The ditch along Hunts Pond Road has now been maintained by contractors and seems to be flowing well again. The hedge has proved more of a problem. A lot of it has died, and some sections have even fallen into the ditch. At a site meeting with FBC and contractors in January 2014 it was noticed that the hedge was dying due to rubbish accumulating around the roots of the hedge, starving them of oxygen, also toxins are leeching out of some of the detritus polluting the soil. If we can clear the rubbish then we can return the hedge to good health. FBC has given us some saplings to fill the gaps and when this is done we should be well on the way to a healthy hedge.

### **SECURITY**

Last year there were a number of sheds broken into with tools stolen etc. This did not only happen at HPR, but all over the Borough. FBC in conjunction with the police are setting up an initiative called Allotment Watch to make plot holders aware of things they can do to prevent any crime from happening on our site. A leaflet advising of some common sense things to do to stop you being a victim is being distributed in the Spring to anyone that wants it. There are also guidelines for security on the WWAA website. If there is a demand we can arrange a Post Code marking session in the future to make tools less attractive to thieves.

### **PLOT NUMBERS**

Please ensure that your plot has its number clearly displayed close to the adjacent path. A piece of wood with the number painted on will suffice. We have aluminium plates on posts if you want something neater.

## **MANURE**

There are stables at Hilbrow, 403 Hunts Pond Road. They have plenty of good quality horse manure, and would be happy for plot holders to collect as much as they need, providing they make sure that the gate is kept shut after access, and again on exit. Trailers can be driven in, but the manure is behind a shed, so a wheelbarrow would be useful. This maybe useful for plot holders at the southern end of the site or if our own heap at the Netley Road end is depleted.

## **VERMIN**

Please let us know if you have a problem with rats or mice. They are a common problem on allotments, especially around compost heaps or animal feed storage areas. We all have the odd sighting, but if that becomes a regular thing, we need to advise the council, and get the pest controller involved.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We would like to thank all plot holders who give up their valuable time to help running the HPR site and assisting their neighbours with their plots when things go wrong. There is a tradition on allotments of helping others to help themselves. Newcomers benefit from advice from seasoned growers and older/less able folk can continue to cultivate, with the help of a friend who is stronger. If you feel that you can help in some way, please let us know. We can add your name to the list of volunteers prepared to help when needed.

## **MOWERS**

There are 3 mowers dotted around the site, for the use of plot holders. We are planning to give an induction course to new plot holders, on the operation and basic maintenance of the grass cutting machinery at HPR. If anybody would like to brush up their knowledge, they also would be more than welcome. Please ask one of the site managers for more details.

## **COMMUNICATION**

We have an email address exclusively for Hunts Pond Road Allotments which is [thehuntspondlot@gmail.com](mailto:thehuntspondlot@gmail.com) . If you would like to get the newsletter by email please send us your email address. We can also pass on information and social events etc. For a quicker response, please continue to use the phone numbers provided:-

Linda 01489 575945

Martin 01489 589485

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