

# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

It looks like the “Endless Summer” is now well and truly over, but what a summer. Sure the watering was hard work, but generally speaking most things grew well. It just shows what a difference a bit of sunshine can make and the dry weather stopped the marauding slugs in their tracks for a little while. I hope you all got a good harvest and are looking forward to next year, whatever it may bring.

## **RENT RENEWALS AND TENANCY AGREEMENT**

The rent renewals should all have been returned, but there are still some outstanding. The site managers were at the shed most Sunday mornings and some Saturdays to make things easier for plot holders. The original tenancy agreement we all signed is now defunct as a new lease has been signed with FBC. To comply with the lease a new agreement must be completed otherwise you are no longer a plot holder at HPR. If you no longer require your plot please let us know so that we can find a new tenant from the waiting list.

## **MANURE**

Our long standing arrangement with a local stable supplying us with regular free deliveries came to an end some time ago. The site managers have done their best to find another supplier. Currently there are three people who are prepared to deliver dung to us. One has a large trailer and will deliver when it is full, every three weeks or so. The other two do not have the equipment to get the manure to us regularly. If anyone has the use of a trailer, I know a large pile of poo that needs shifting.

In the meantime if I could ask plot holders to consider others when collecting manure from the bin. I have noticed that the whole pile disappears within 2-3 days. I think that one barrow load per plot per week is fair. If people need a large amount then please arrange for delivery or collection yourself. The cost and work could be shared by neighbouring plot holders in true allotment spirit.

Traditionally we have had supplies of horse manure. Some of the gardening experts say that too much horse manure is not always a good thing. Because of the way horses digest their food things like pernicious weed seeds, herbicides and antibiotics can pass straight through and still be viable. Cattle manure is said to be better because the cow effectively has four stomachs, everything is broken down. If anyone is interested I have the number of a local farmer who will deliver a trailer load of rotted cow manure at a cost of £50 a load.

## **DRAINAGE WORK**

On Monday 12 November we are hoping to start work on the four rows between 24-32 that badly need drainage work. Alastair will drive the digger but we will need as many volunteers as possible to help move the 24 tons of gravel to make the drains. We need a minimum of 12 people to make it viable, many hands make light work, even if you can only make tea for the troops. Anyone with plots in this area has a vested interest in the work being done, but all are welcome. Without the manpower the work cannot go ahead. Please contact one of the site managers if you can help so we can plan accordingly.

## **BRITAIN'S BEST HOME COOK**

We have been approached by a television production company, KEO films to see if any of our members are interested in entering the next production of Britain's Best Home Cook, Posters will be displayed on notice boards but you can apply direct to <https://britainsbesthomecook.co.uk>. Good luck and please give my best regards to Mary and Claudia.

## **AGM 2018**

Date for your diaries the WWAA AGM is being held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Warsash at 1900 hrs.