

HUNTS POND RD.
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

The year 2016 has roared in like a lion. There has been so much rain that there have been few days when cultivation has been possible and it has been so windy that most of my MYPEX is in the next county. The days are getting longer now so hopefully things will improve and we will be able to get our plots into shape for the growing season.

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY FENCE

The fence between the recreation ground and our site is being replaced this month and is due to be completed soon. Stock fencing is replacing the chestnut fences that are many years old and a new hedge is being laid in front of it. The old hedge has had to be removed in order to replace the fence. It has been necessary for the bee keeper to remove the hives from Plot 3D as this site is no longer suitable for bees until the new hedge gets established.

PADLOCKS

The padlocks to all the access gates are failing on a regular basis now. It is hoped to replace them in the near future, with a lock that can be rebuilt almost completely. The cost is substantial, therefore, as before we will be asking plot holders to fund the padlocks and keys. In the meantime we can try to keep the old locks going by careful use and lubricating them to keep out the affects of the weather. We will have more information about the padlocks in the next newsletter. We of course welcome your comments on this matter.

SKIPS

We hope to place some skips around the site around the Easter period. We are getting quotes from local companies. Skips are not cheap because of the environmental levy so please only place items that you cannot dispose of by composting, burning or taking to the tip.

PATH CUTTING

Keeping the grass on the paths between plots cut is part of the tenancy agreement. To make things easier for plot holders a number of petrol mowers are dotted around the site for people to use. Sadly many of the mowers were out of action last season for one reason or another. The equipment officer spent many hours repairing them and one had to be written off. It seems that one or two people either abused or did not know how to use the mowers correctly, putting the mowers out of action. The coming season use of the mowers will be restricted to people who know how to use and maintain the mowers, a log of their usage and breakdown will be kept in the sheds so that responsibility can be monitored. It is hoped to get a portable generator so that electric equipment, such as mowers, trimmers, can be used around the site.

COMMUNICATION

Please make sure that you inform us of any change of address, phone numbers or email addresses. If we cannot get hold of you with the details on your tenancy agreement then we have to assume that you have moved from the area and no longer require your plot.

CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Hunts Pond Road allotments are one of the largest in Fareham. It is great to have this facility in our area but it can be a bit unfriendly and difficult to know everybody as is the case on some of the smaller sites. As you may know there are now two new site managers, Keith Johnson and Alastair Burnett. In a move to improve communication at HPR the site is being divided into three parts for administration purposes. Martin Barnett is looking after rows 1-13, Keith Johnson rows 14-27 and Alastair Burnett rows 28-40. Each manager will oversee the day to day running of their part of the site, such as lettings, plot inspections etc. We will work together for issues that affect the whole site and cover each other when holidays are taken. It is hoped that local problems can be resolved by the plot holders concerned, with the help and guidance of their site manager.

Martin Barnett rows 1-13

Keith Johnson rows 14-27

Alastair Burnett rows 28-40