

HPR NEWSLETTER/SUMMER 2017

I hope you are all enjoying the fruits (and veg) of your labours and the slugs and pigeons have at least left something for you. Despite a faltering start I have had a good harvest this year and I hope that you have been able to get the most from your plots.

Now that the nights are drawing in perhaps it's a good time to catch up on what has been going on at HPR.

Boundary Fence

The work on the boundary fence has finally been done. The contractors took just over a week to complete the work and have made a good job of it. The site as a whole should be more secure and hopefully deer free. A big thank you to all the plot holders along the HPR boundary who helped to clear up the rubbish. One couple who had only had their plot a short time completely cleared the hedge of junk and detritus that had been there for years, their plot is a credit to them.

Fareham Borough Council will be providing **800** hedging plants in November to re-establish the hedge along HPR. A volunteer work party will be required to plant them. In the meantime, please keep the hedge clear of rubbish.

Skips

We are trying to tidy up the site generally. Alastair and Keith strimmed a couple of vacant plots and we had to get a skip to dispose of an old shed and some rather dangerous waste that had been left. Another skip is being ordered for the southern end too.

Fareham in Bloom

This year we have had a record number of entries to Fareham in Bloom, seven I believe. I wish all the entrants well and hope that those of you that go to the presentation have a great evening. Perhaps because we had a high number of entrants it has impacted on the site as a whole. HPR was looking great in most areas but sadly there was no category for allotment sites this year.

Plot Inspections

The autumn plot inspections are due shortly. Please ensure that your plot complies with the tenancy agreement so that you can continue your tenancy. As well as the cultivation and tidiness of the plot please ensure the paths are neat and tidy, allowing easy access around the site. There are a number of trees and bushes that are partially/totally blocking some of the paths. Whilst clearing some vacant plots and repairing leaks, the site managers noticed some invasive species of tree like **sycamore** etc. growing strongly. Please remove these ASAP as they spread very quickly and impede the growth of other people's crops as well as yours. Trees should be no more than 2 metres tall unless sited in the orchard area.

Sunflower Competition

On a lighter note, how are your sunflowers doing? Some of the younger children were given some seeds to grow and I wonder how well they are doing. I gave one to each of my four grandchildren and, like many seeds, some did well other did not. Slugs completely destroyed my granddaughter's but her brother's one fended off the slimy onslaught and has grown to well over seven feet. Please send any pictures/measurement of height of your sunflowers to the website or to martinbarnett9@gmail.com and give your plot number. The largest standing plant will be acknowledged and a small prize awarded.

Heavy Potato Competition

For the adults it has been suggested we have a competition for the heaviest potato. If your spuds have survived the slugs, blight, eel worm and other ills that prevail on them and grown to a heavyweight, bring them along to the site manager's hut for the weigh-in on **Sunday 3rd September at 10.30**. Awards to 6th place.

Making an Animal from Vegetables Competition

For any budding young sculptors a challenge to see what animals can be made from vegetables. A dachshund made from a cucumber for a body and carrots for legs, perhaps using a cocktail stick to connect the body parts together. The competition is open to children under **8** years old and they can use any vegetables grown on their parents/grandparents allotments, though perhaps not dad's heavyweight potato. Judging will be at the site manager's hut, **Sunday 3rd September at 11:00**.

Rent Renewal

The rents will be due in October. If you no longer require your plot please advise your site manager so we can stop the renewal notice being sent to you. If anyone is prepared to help deliver the rent renewals in late September please let your site manager know. If several people can deliver some just to their own road and neighbouring streets, it is an enormous help. Postage is not cheap and not as reliable as it used to be, so if you can drop a few rent renewals off to your friends and neighbours it will be greatly appreciated. If you would prefer to collect your rent in person, that can be arranged too.

There are usually plots vacated at the end of the rental year so if you would like more growing space let us know. We have a special request list and try to give preference to existing tenants who would like additional ground close to their plot or to move closer to friends as plots are vacated. I am getting a lot of enquiries passed to me by the webmaster; it is good of her to do this, but it makes extra work for her and she is not based at HPR. An email/phone call to any of the site managers should be a quicker way to get your request dealt with.

Many Thanks, the site managers

Martin Barnett rows 1-15. 01489 589485 (martinbarnett9@gmail.com)

Keith Johnson rows 16-27. 01489 589388 (keith@suekei.co.uk)

Alastair Burnett rows 28-40. 01489 583671 (arburnett49@gmail.com)