

HUNTS POND ROAD SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

Judging by the recent spectacular thunderstorms, it must be heading for Summer. At last after a long, cool and wet winter, Spring is starting to show itself. The experts think that we are about four weeks behind, but of course nature catches up quite quickly. Looking around the site, many plots are well cultivated already, despite the inclement weather. Many visitors to HPR are astounded by the number of plots and also quite complimentary about the overall standard of the site.

Plot identification

A lot of new tenants have taken on plots recently. Whilst letting plots to them, we have noticed that many plots are not clearly marked by their plot number. It is important that plots are easily identified and is a requirement of the tenancy agreement. Trimmed paths are a great help when understanding where one plot finishes and the next one starts. In the case of crime or emergencies this is very useful information.

Water back on

The site mains water is now back on, slightly later this year due to the weather. Even with the water off, there was plenty of water on site. Too much in some cases and a few plots were flooded. This is regrettable for the people concerned. We have no control over the weather, but we can try to adapt to it. Many plots now have raised beds, which helps and adjusting planting times to drier periods if possible. The French drains that were put in recently have proved their worth. With voluntary labour the drains were laid at a fraction of the cost of a contractor. It is hoped to extend drainage to some areas of the site most prone to flooding. Of course, this is totally dependent on volunteers.

Plot inspections

The spring plot inspections will be late this year, due to the slow start in the weather. New plot holders have three months to get their plots looking shipshape. Once they have, the site as a whole will benefit. If you want to give up your plot or are going to be giving it up, or cannot cultivate it for health or personal reasons, please get in touch with one of the site managers.

Marketing update

We now have a full site, lots of new people now have a plot who did not think it was possible a little while ago. Whether it is a coincidence or due to the WWAA marketing strategy, an unprecedented demand for plots has occurred over the last few weeks. The WWAA had a stall at the Locks Heath Shopping Village, manned by volunteers giving information and handing out fliers about our five sites. There was a lot of interest, possibly aided by the good weather, a post on social media and a piece about allotments on Gardeners World.

There will be future events to promote; if you feel you could help out over the holiday period by giving up an hour or so to help get the message out, it would be much appreciated. More ladies would be welcome in the future to reflect the make-up of plot holders generally, rather than it being seen as a male-only pursuit.

New tenants

We want to give a warm welcome to all new plot holders. They may need help and encouragement to start with. Knowing where things like mowers and the Jim Lett Hut are and when it is open, all help to make life easier for the "newbies". We were all there once.