

HPR NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2016

It is almost Halloween and time to put the plots to bed for winter. It is rent renewal time and from what we can see there will be many vacant plots available next year. This is rather sad and almost unprecedented but it does give us an opportunity to consolidate. If you would like an extra piece of ground to cultivate or have an unproductive plot you would like to swap, now is a good time to do it. When the rent deadline has passed we will publish a list of vacant plots, so if one of these takes your fancy please let us know and we can do the paperwork.

Theft and Vandalism

Sadly there has been another case of damage on one of our plots. This time fruit was taken from one of the apple trees on plot 4B1. Branches were cut off the tree so as to gain access to the fruit above, so the plot holder had a mess to clear up as well as losing produce. Please remember not to remove produce from other plots without the tenant's permission. If you saw anything suspicious please inform us and the police if necessary. New locks are being fitted once the rent deadline has passed that should make the site more secure.

Drainage Work

Keith and Alastair plus a small army of plot holders recently laid drainage pipes between Rows 32/33 and 34/35. It was all done in four days and looks very neat considering the work that has been carried out. This should help the flooding that has affected that area in recent years. It just shows what can happen when people co-operate and work together. More information about this plus photographs can be found on the WWAA website.

Mower Shed – Row 5

The mower shed on Row 5 is being moved to Row 11, where a plot holder has volunteered to check the mower on a daily basis and report any problems to the equipment manager, who has a plot close by.

Manure

The manure bin has been empty recently due to a trailer problem at the stables that supply us. That has now been resolved so deliveries are getting back to normal.

For those at the southern end, there is still a good supply of manure at Hillbrow, 403 Hunts Pond Road. Their horses produce about 4 barrows of manure a day. The owner is happy for us to leave barrows for her to fill, provided they are removed on a regular basis. We did suggest a trailer, but it is difficult for her to load one, especially in the winter months. If anyone wants to participate in this please get in touch with me (Martin). We will need to get some barrows and a rota organised. Long term I would like a manure bin similar to the one at Netley Road for the south of the site. Logistically there is a problem as we need a double gate and room to reverse a trailer in from Hunts Pond Road which is much busier than Netley Road. I am sure a problem can be found if we work together to find one.

Martin Barnett
Site Manager, Hunts Pond Road
October 2016