

Message from the Chairman

My congratulations to the site managers at HPR and specifically to Keith Johnson, for the huge amount of work that has gone in to the gate and fence project over the last few months. Also my sincere thanks to the Police for the work they have offered freely to guide us to the correct solution. The attendance at the Victory Hall to explain the roll-out in February was very well attended and I am heartened at the positive attitude most plot holders demonstrated towards the forthcoming changes.

I am glad to say the weather appears to be very kind to us this year and I have noticed the majority of plot holders getting ready for the new season. From my own experience at HPR, this is the first time in many years that many of the plots have escaped the misery and inconvenience of being waterlogged until late March or early April.

I have decided to stand down as Chairman in the next few weeks and would like to thank everyone who has supported me in this role over the last four years. Being Chairman can be both a difficult and rewarding job, but there are clearly skills that a person needs to bring to the role, and Committee members must be allowed to 'vet' any prospective Chairman to ensure the WWA benefits from the most suitable candidate.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the friends I have made at the Association over the years and wish both them and everyone the best of luck with their growing endeavours in 2012.

GHH

NEWS FROM THE HUT

The store's open every Sunday from 10—12pm and has a new fine mesh that we're trialling which will stop all insects from attacking your plants once they are in growth.

It's £2.65 per metre, a bargain!

A full list of products are on the notice boards at each site.

FAREHAM IN BLOOM



It is the time of year to enter your plot into Fareham in Bloom either through Fareham Today magazine (page 6) or on-line. By joining in the competition we are demonstrating how important the allotments are to the community which will stand us good stead in the future.

Keith from Hunts Pond Rd Site was a Gold and Overall winner for 2011 and is more than happy to give advice. There are a number of plot's on various site's that should enter because they are so good. His number is **01489 589388**.



SNAPSHOT OF PLOT ACTIVITY

Allotment Road: Ray would like anyone who has a source that supplies well rotted manure to get in contact with him please. All plots are taken.

Warsash: Spring has come early in Warsash with most of the plots well prepared for the coming season so hopefully there will be no need for any nagging following the first site inspection just after Easter. Gill is getting on well with the turning circle project - the job has been made easier thanks to the kind folk who have got rid of the rubbish, found homes for some of the stones and recycled the unwanted soil.

Hunts Pond Road: Linda say's that the meeting held on 17 February about vandalism was supported by over 100 HPR allotment holders. Sgt Freemantle gave suggestions about how to protect ourselves from vandalism, these included smaller mesh on gates, anti-vandal paint and locking gates. We now have smaller mesh on the gates, which will also protect us from deer, and we will be improving the southern boundary soon. You will be notified about the locking of gates and issuing keys later. If you feel you could help, we need **another site manager**. Please contact a committee member to discuss what is involved.

Lodge Road: Sandra would like to encourage everyone to take great care of their belongings, shut and lock up the gate. First plot inspection will be in middle May. Sandra is gathering interest for the next social event.

Posbrook: John is pleased to say that all the plot's are being worked and are looking tidy.