

The Plotholder

Newsletter of the Worthing and District
Allotments and Garden Association
affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Vegetable Society

2011 issue 6 December



Have you renewed your membership yet?
Due in October.



The AGM confirmed these **Association contacts** as from 9th November 2011:

President Arthur Burt

Chair Ian Dunster, i.dunster@sky.com 261973

Secretary and Editor of Plotholder Paul Eustice,
529084, plotholder@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer Angela Dunster

Trading sec Peter Everett
peter.everett@talktalk.net

Membership sec and Plotholder distribution Margo

Hollingdale, 14 Burlington Rd., BN12 6BD 606904

Website Terry Monnery – terry.monnery@tiscali.co.uk 07745 950900

Show sec Jack Powis - jackpowis@hotmail.co.uk - **sub-committee** Terry Edwards
tdeplumbing@virginmedia.com

Social Sec Tony Payne cissbury.23@sheila.ntlworld.com 872909

We'd like to record our thanks to retiring committee members **Peter Foan** (Membership) and **Bob Bingham** (Treasurer) for all their work during the last year. Anyone else wishing to help out with admin or at shows etc. is welcome to approach any of us to discuss it informally

Nanny Sue's Best Eggs

Findon Free Range Eggs
South Lodge Cottage, Rogers Lane, Findon, BN140RE
Tel 01903 872970 Mob 07855 846963
24/7 self-service

The advertisement features a stylized illustration of several chickens in various colors (orange, yellow, brown) in the foreground. The background shows rolling green hills under a light blue sky. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout.

Size may not be everything, but it keeps these two happy:



The first photo, taken by Peter Hannam, shows Martin Ellman being happy with his 5lb carrot, grown with help from Bernie Broad. Suitable captions are welcome at plotholder@hotmail.co.uk but remember this newsletter is read by innocent younger members.

The Pic of Peter's Pumpkin appeared in the Herald and shows what our membership Secretary has been doing when not reminding you subs were due in October.

If you would also like a heavyweight crop, ask at the stores for suitable feed at reasonable prices. And watch out for giant rabbits.

Security

A meeting between Association reps and council officers discussed a number of ideas to reduce theft and vandalism, which were then raised at the AGM.

Firstly, as agreed by a large majority, **at Tarring and Chesswood only, the locks will be changed** to ensure that ex-tenants cannot enter the site. New keys will be issued against a £10 deposit that will be collected with this year's rent and returned when you give up the

plot and hand it back. As from **Saturday 11th February** old keys will not work but you can collect your new one from the stores on either site on Saturday or Sunday mornings, handing in your old one at the same time. Your name will only be on the list for a new key if the 2011-12 rent has been paid by then. Your formal letter about rent renewal should explain this and give you a deadline. As usual, please let us know if any problem arises.



An offer by the council to provide **secure storage** at West Tarring so expensive machines could be stored in it was rejected. You can, of course, remove the wheels from rotovators to make it harder to steal them. And all expensive tools could have your postcode engraved on them – ask at the stores about using the equipment.

No decision has been taken yet on **alarms and lights**. We want the sites to feel like allotments and not prison camps, and we have to consider the neighbours. For the moment, we'll focus on fences.

Fences cannot be made vandal and thief proof whatever we spend on them, but at West Tarring only – as a test site - exposed areas of fence will have brambles planted beside them to act as a thorny deterrent. In a few cases this will reduce the size of pathway and may even encroach on the far end of cultivated ground if you have cleared right up to the fence. A small individual inconvenience will add to the general security of all plots. In return, you can harvest all the fruit.

In some areas the brambles can be underplanted with nettles. If you have nettles already, perhaps you could pot some up for us and leave them at the shop?

Where the fence borders a public right of way, we cannot use the vicious blackthorn as a deterrent. It could grow through to the public area and harm small children brushing against it. But if your allotment borders an area that does not have such a right of way, more uninviting plants can be very useful. Transition Worthing have been approached to help us increase bio-diversity in the hedges whilst also creating edible crops and snagging intruder trousers. Watch those spaces. Suggestions welcomed.

Self-management

This was discussed at a separate meeting after the AGM, attended by council officers. To underline the answers to basic questions on the night: (1) it affects only West Tarring as a trial run (2) nobody needs to get involved that doesn't want to and you won't be asked to attend meetings or accept any legal or financial responsibility (3) nothing will come into effect until January 2013, so we have plenty of time to negotiate and get it right. The next stage is for the Association, WT overseers and council officers to think carefully about how

to maintain services most effectively as Continental disappear and the economy goes through a sticky patch. We'll keep you posted.

Allotment organic - Claire Hunt

I am slowing down for winter, with only broad beans and garlic to start off, but I am planning for next year. One of the key themes of organic gardening is staying on top of pests and diseases and one way to do this is by crop rotation. The RHS have a simple explanation on their web site <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/advisesearch/Profile.aspx?pid=124>. A useful leaflet can be printed off at http://apps.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/uploads/documents/Crop-rotation-V5_1151.pdf. Briefly, they group crops into potatoes / legumes, onions and roots / brassicas and rotate them in that order. Each type of crop uses different nutrients and pest and diseases won't build up.

My purple sprouting broccoli has quite a lot of whitefly and I have been advised to pick up and pick off dead and yellowing leaves from winter brassicas. This helps to remove whitefly, reduces places for slugs to lurk and reduces risk of fungal diseases like grey mould and botrytis. The leaves can be composted. You can also spray both sides of the other leaves with insecticidal soap if the infestation is bad, repeating two or three times at intervals if necessary.

I am planning to welcome as much beneficial wildlife into the plot as possible and to attract pest-eating frogs and toads. New ponds are now against the regulations but even a small, shallow bowl of water can help. Dug into the ground by the water butts, it can be topped up easily from the overflow. I already grow insect attractant plants like phacelia, comfrey, valerian and yarrow but I have ordered some hyssop seeds too. I will leave some of the self-seeding borage in the strawberry beds because it is thought to be a good companion for them and attracts hoverflies and bees. I reckon giving over a bit of each plot to a wildlife friendly diversity of plants, could mean more productivity and fewer pests and diseases on the allotment in future.

Finally, I will try not to leave bare soil that will be compacted by heavy rain and leached of some of its nutrients. I have planted green manures in some beds, I have black membrane on another, stable muck elsewhere and I may even go down to the beach and forage some seaweed to cover what's left. Good soil is an amazing resource of living matter, a reservoir of moisture and a store for carbon, so it's worth looking after.



*Bill has been oiled and stored for winter but will popping up again in Spring. Meanwhile here are two thoughts from other sources about **recycling**.*

(1) It costs £55 per year to have your green waste collected by the council. Garden sacks cost 60p each (that's 12/- in proper money). Just as Claire collects her neighbour's leaves (*October issue*) I ask my neighbour to put all her garden waste in an old plastic sack and leave it by her front gate. She saves money and I use it to make new compost for free.

(2) According to Viv, Extreme Tyres near West Worthing station are glad to get rid of old tyres, which you can place beneath your pumpkins to keep them off the ground. But remember, what you import you also have to export one day.

Dangerous plants - Further to our warning about hogweed, Pam tells us the juice from parsnip leaves can also react to light to cause skin irritations. Let's be careful out there.

Garden visiting may be declining in mid-winter, but it is an ideal time to light the log fire and plan next year, so if you think your garden looks a bit bare, may be could try **winter-flowering clematis** such as *Cirrhosa* var. *pupurascens* Lansdowne Gem, the white balerica, *napaulensis* or Apple Blossom. All recommended by the RHS. Ten more winter flowering shrubs are at <http://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/Plant-trials-and-awards/Plant-awards/10-AGM-plants/10-AGM-winter-flowering-shrubs>



(See this plant at www.rhs.org.uk/Gardens/Hyde-Hall/About-HydeHall/Plant-of-the-month/December/C-cirrhosa-var-pupurascens-Freckles)

And if your allotment looks **bare in winter**, maybe next year you could try Swiss chard, mustard spinach or corn salad to beat the frost? The NVS recommends apples you can enjoy at Christmas – Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribstone Pippin (good with cheese) Ashmead's Kernel, D'Arcy Spice, Kidd's Orange Red... their magazine article is on file if you want details on how to grow them.

In your winter chair, you can also look forward to the **annual dinner**, as *Jack Powis* explains: "details were in the last issue and are the website. It is Friday 17th February at the Worthing Indoor Bowls Club in Field Place, 7.00 for 7.30. The three course meal plus coffee and mints is £21 per head and the closing date for booking is 13th January. We are limited 70 so get in quick before it's too late. The chef is held in high regard, there will be a quiz and a raffle and

a bar at club prices. For more information ring Jack Powis on 01903 243216 or John Nutt on 01903 243114. See you there.

Annual show by *Jack Powis*

Following the success of this year's show, we shall return to Oak Grove next year and have booked the same weekend - Saturday 18th August. Make a note of this date now and we'll see you there, making it even bigger and better. However, there are two points to consider. We need more children taking part. In village shows up and down the country you will see lots of lovely children's exhibits but for some reason in our show we have very few, which is a pity. Our members have lots of children and grandchildren so this a plea to make sure that next year they join the fun. They will love it if only they have a go.

The other point is helpers. Our loyal gang worked all day without a break and could not actually have time to enjoy the show. We must have twice as many next year to share the load. So do not be shy, get involved. Please give me a ring on 243216 and offer your services. You will enjoy the afternoon even more if you are in the thick of it. Many thanks.

Another diary date: Feb 10th at Oak Grove College Transition Town Worthing will be running a **seed swap**. Details on <http://transitiontownworthing.ning.com/>

News from the stores:

New seeds are in the rack and onion sets are expected in January – 2 bags red, 2 bags white and 1 of shallots. Remember, if you order red onions then don't plant them until the end of April or they will bolt. If you haven't yet ordered your spuds then hurry before stocks run out. We've included a spare order form in case, on the next page3.

On the final page, you will an advert for Puckamuck, which can be collected or delivered in large or small amounts. We still get free deliveries of fresh manure from time to time at West Tarring, but if you it ready-aged and in plastic bags, pehaps for roses in your garden, the stores at WT and Chesswood have taken some bags of Puckamuck for a trial period. They are £4 each and you can inspect the sample before you buy. For bulk deliveries, see the back page.

Seed Potato Order Form

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP? DUE IN OCTOBER

Send order with cheque to P. Everett, 71 Greenland Rd, Worthing, BN13 2RW.

Make cheques payable to Worthing Allotments Association.

Name _____

Membership number _____

Address _____

Phone No _____

Quantity (lbs)	Price per lb	Total
first earlies:		
Aran Pilot _____	50p	_____
Foremost _____	50p	_____
Javelin _____	50p	_____
early maincrop:		
Desiree _____	50p	_____
second earlies:		
Charlotte _____	60p	_____
Marfona _____	50p	_____
Kestrel _____	50p	_____
Total	£ _____	

I will collect from circle your choice

Chesswood

West Tarring

Humber store

Advertising rates for this newsletter include printed (b/w) and on-line (colour) versions; whole page £30, half page £20, quarter £10, eighth £5. Contact plotholder@hotmail.co.uk 01903 529084

Sussex Manures 2012



Sussex Manures is offering Worthing allotment holders deals on Transit tipper loads of our aged and shredded horse manure.

2.5 cubic metres of manure equates to *50 barrow loads*. This is an ideal amount for four or five plot holders to share and it is available this year at £95.00 plus VAT. (£114 or £22.80 each based on 5 people sharing).

Puckamuck is horse manure from stables in Surrey and Sussex. We mature it for a minimum of 12 months during which time we shred and aerate it twice. Finally **we deliver it in 60L size bags** or on our 2.5 cubic metre capacity tipper truck.

Puckamuck is naturally baked during the maturing process, the temperature inside the pile is sufficient to eradicate irritating weed seeds but not too high to discourage worm activity or damage the product.

We are based in Findon West Sussex and our product is highly rated by domestic gardeners and professional growers alike. It is a natural and sustainable, organically sourced, fertilizer with which you can only improve the quality of your soil and crops.

Mulch, top dress or mix in the soil for award winning vegetables, fruit and roses. Use it all year round, refreshing your soil when you harvest.

We also offer our manure bagged at £3.84 per bag collected from the High Street Findon.

Sussex Manures Findon: 01903 877981 or 07899 676166