

The **HARTHILL** Plot

Optimistic Spring issue

April 2017

SPRING - THE SEASON OF OPTIMISM!

Well they say that hope springs eternal and it certainly does on an allotment. Spring is the time when nothing can possibly go wrong as you plant your seed potatoes and beans. So let's stay positive and make sure we keep the site in great condition throughout the year.

There are various ways we can all help to do that. First of all, if you have non-fruiting, self seeded trees on your plot, can you please remove them. We can guarantee you that they will grow too big, shade yours and other's plots, and not provide anything useful. If you want trees - no problem! There are plenty of small fruit trees that will look good, stay a reasonable size and provide you with good things to eat! Just remember, you must ask the committee for permission before you plant a tree. This is solely to make sure that they are on dwarf stock and are not planted too close to borders, paths or other plots.

Other ways we can all help to keep the place in good shape:

- *clean/knock boots out on your own plot or the verge NOT on the car park*
- *empty wheelbarrows of soil on your own plot or the verge NOT on the car park*
- *open and close the locks with clean hands. Soil covered hands or gloves put fine particles of soil into the mechanism of the locks, jamming them.*
- *replace loaned communal tools to the communal tool bins*
- *label tool bins with your plot number and name - this could be on a piece of paper taped to the bin).*

HAPPY GARDENING!

Harthill housing latest

The planning application to build houses on part of the Harthill estate has been agreed (though there may be an application for a judicial review). This does not directly affect our allotment site but we did submit an objection to protect our interests, especially with regard to access. These don't seem to have been taken into account in the final decision so we will be asking the developers to make sure that our access is properly protected if the building goes ahead.

CARPETS: Back in the day lots of us put bits of carpet on our plots. We thought they would help to suppress weeds and keep paths tidy. Well, we were wrong. Any short term gains are more than offset by chemicals that leach into the ground and the way that carpet gets stuck in the soil. The council no longer allows carpet on allotments so if you find any can you please remove it and dispose of it off site. And - obviously - don't bring any carpet on to your plot. All sorts of ground cover is available from the container.

WEBSITE!: Our website will be up and running any day now. Address will be emailed out. For the time being we are still using our old email address and we'll let you know when that changes

