

The **HARTHILL** Plot

Autumn 2014

Mellow Fruitfulness Edition

Several people went to mow.....

Our magnificent Indian summer has had one slight downside – the grassy paths are still growing like there's no tomorrow. So a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with mowing them. Barbara has trained up several plotholders and some have already been able to help out. A few more are in the pipeline but *more volunteers are still needed*. We haven't yet been able to draw up a proper rota but hope to be able to do so shortly.

There will be a further chance for everyone to help with those vital tasks around the site when we have our next **Group Help Day** on **Sunday 5 October, from 1-3 pm**. The last one had to be deferred as too many people were away. Jobs we need to do include hedge trimming, litter picking, beginning to clear Plot 1B and cutting back brambles. Hope to see you there!

Is it really autumn? Things to look out for

Ah yes, autumn – though it doesn't feel like it yet. The season, as every newspaper editorial likes to remind us, of mists and mellow fruitfulness. And, when you've done your harvesting, of taking stock of our plots. Here are some things to keep an eye out for.

Weed mounds are a blight on the site. Don't be tempted to start one – we have too much experience of mounds that inevitably get out of hand and then have to be cleared either on Help Days or by hapless new tenants.

Grass and weeds dumped on verges. There is just no excuse for this. The Secretary has had to take two carloads of dumped weeds to the Tip at Otterspool recently. Weeds from your plot are your responsibility. They should be composted, taken to the tip or burned – NOT dumped so they become someone else's problem.

Silverleaf is at large on the site. If you have silverleaf (believe it or not, the leaves on fruit trees, especially plums and apples go silvery – a dead giveaway). If you identify it on your plot please treat it accordingly. Guidance is available on the RHS website. Try this link:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/Advice/Profile?PID=245>

Please cut back trees or raspberry canes that *overhang* paths and cut the grass mowing volunteers to ribbons.

Manure: We all greatly miss the regular manure supplies we used to get. We have managed to solve the problem that led to their discontinuation and expect a delivery soon. When it arrives we will let you know by email and it will need to be put on plots within three weeks, so you will have to get your skates on. We need to avoid puncturing the material the manure will be kept on so you must use spades or shovels, NOT forks.

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And finally – please remember to: Scramble the locks - Keep paths clear - Park carefully -
Keep ponds safe. THANK YOU!