

# The **HARTHILL** Plot

Winter Special

December 2020

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO BARBARA AT ZOOM AGM**

**A packed screen** at our first ever Zoom Annual General Meeting paid a fond farewell to Barbara Rigby as she bowed out as an officer of the Association after a marathon 15 year stint as secretary, treasurer and all round powerhouse. Anybody who has been around for all or part of that time (and the editor pleads guilty) will testify that Barbara has been the life and soul of Harthill and the place would simply not be what it is today without Barbara's herculean efforts. The meeting paid a huge thank you and although Barbara was not present (well, nobody was actually present, but you get my meaning) she did confirm that she had received the flowers and gift voucher sent as a token of our gratitude. Needless to say, Barbara is not giving up her plot and will still be around to chat to.

## **ZOOMING IN FOR THE AGM**

*The meeting - brilliantly organised by Secretary Emily Gerrans, by the way - went on to elect the committee and officers, some of whom have the unenviable task of stepping in to Barbara's shoes. Emily herself remains as Secretary as does George Willans as Chair. Alan Taylor moves into the hot seat as Treasurer and the rest of the committee is Irene Newton, Karen Wilson, Andy Thomas, Mike Curtis, Pete Cresswell and Jane Loveday who makes a welcome comeback.*

**FRIENDLY REMINDERS** - as always please park carefully, don't cut into paths, keep paths clear, keep any ponds safe, scramble locks.

*Overleaf - Beechley, Help Days, New ways of working.....Now read on/*

## **BEECHLEY NEEDS OUR HELP**

Most of us will have used the free manure available from our neighbours at Beechley Stables and now it's our turn to help them out as they are in financial trouble due to the squeeze on local government finance. The Association has made a donation but individuals can help by making donations - every bit helps. If you give via Beechley's 'Just Giving' site they get the tax back as well, so do help - the Stables provide a fantastic service for disabled youngsters. Go to [justgiving.com/campaign/beechley](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/beechley). More details are on their Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/beechleystablerda](https://www.facebook.com/beechleystablerda).

### **HELP DAYS**

Obviously as we struggle in the grip of Covid, our usual Group Help Days are out of the question for now so we have had to find other ways of doing the work that keeps the site in great shape. No elves are involved, just volunteers. So if you can help contact [members@harthillallotments.org.uk](mailto:members@harthillallotments.org.uk) or keep an eye out for emails and notices on the hut.

### **NEW SYSTEMS**

*We are developing new ways of working as we replace Barbara. The way we buy and sell membrane etc for instance will be changing so keep an eye out for emails and notices; please bear with us. Hopefully you've all memorised the new combinations for both gates. In particular we hope that you've done so better than the editor of this journal (name escapes me...) who recently managed to remember the number well enough to let himself in but by the time came to leave had forgotten it! Fortunately he was helped out by a kind tenant who was on her way in. If you've forgotten you'll have to ask for another email or stay locked on the site forever. Your choice...*

**Waiting....** The demand for allotments has soared during lockdown and we are no exception, with a current waiting list of over 44. Welcome to any Covid refugees - we're sure your enthusiasm will outlast Covid 19 once you experience the delights of allotmenting at Harthill! If, on the other hand, you are thinking of giving up your tenancy or you are struggling to keep up with your plot, please do let us know as soon as possible so we can re-let your plot.

**Over 60?** - don't be shy - let us know as you qualify for a reduced rent.

And talking about **rents** - can you make sure your details are up to date -changed address and so on - and let The Association know.