

The

Harthill Plot

Early Spring issue

February 2023

Welcome to everyone

Welcome to new members and a belated happy new year to everyone! Seven plots have been re-marked and let following a few resignations and downsizing. We're sure you'll enjoy your time at Harthill – the Friendly Allotment! With so many changes we will be altering the access codes, so keep an eye out for that in an email.

As we move into Spring there will be a plot inspection in early March, though newcomers don't need to be too alarmed by that – you will get time to settle in.

A few **good housekeeping rules**, not just for new tenants:

- Don't cut into the paths; it makes mowing even harder;
- Please label any loose items, such as compost bin lids so they can be returned to their rightful home after storms;
- Use watering cans only – hoses are not allowed, even if you could find a way to use one.
- And our usual reminders to scramble locks, park carefully.

Answers to those plastic greenhouse questions? We got'em!

One of the great features of Harthill is its open aspect, with no greenhouses or sheds, making us a uniquely attractive site. That said, plastic greenhouses/tunnels are now more widely used and indeed some have been erected on our site in the last year or so. What we don't want is a site dominated by industrial polytunnels, like a commercial farm. Our current rules have protected the site that we all love:

- ✓ Any constructions (cages, tunnels, 'greenhouses') must be plastics. No glass is allowed under any circumstances.
- ✓ They must be easily removeable and securely anchored so they don't blow across other plots.
- ✓ People do occasionally move on and any such devices must move on with them.
- ✓ All constructions are put up at your own risk – they are not insured by the Association.
- ✓ Anything you put on your plot must not dominate the plot, as this would change the character of the site.
- ✓ They must not shade neighbouring plots.
- ✓ Site inspectors must be allowed entry to 'walk in' constructions.

HARTHILL'S TREES

One of the charms of Harthill is the **tree lined boundary**. In general the trees are looked after by Liverpool City Council and they have recently reviewed all the trees following the recent winter storms. They will be addressing any safety/management concerns in due course. It's worth bearing in mind when talking about the Council that they are permanently strapped for cash nowadays so we do – unfortunately – have to be realistic when we are dealing with them. That said, if you don't ask you don't get.

If you have trees on your plot you do need to keep them under control and avoid shading neighbouring plots. We do have extendable pruners available if you need them. Also, if you need a tree cutting down, contact the committee and we will put you in touch with someone who has a small chain saw who will take it down for you.

None of this will be the issue for **new trees** which will of course be on dwarf stock and agreed by the committee in line with our longstanding policy.

Harthill on-line

Our website is www.harthillallotments.org.uk.

FIRES

The City Council has decreed that **fires** are only allowed up to 15 March this year and then after 1 November. I have to say that the Editorial Board of The Harthill Plot (i.e. me) doesn't think this spinning wheel of policy makes any sense, but there you go; if you need to burn stuff on site you **must** do it before 15 March



...and look forward to sowing, summer and crops!

