

The **HARTHILL** Plot

Late Spring issue

June 2016

HOW TO USE THE LOO - REALLY!

Sometimes I feel as though the newsletter is like a series of orders, barked out from Harthill Towers. Well, it's not meant to be like that, but occasionally we do need to remind people of things we all need to do. This is one of those occasions.

So, first of all, a few teething problems with the **compost toilet**. Turn away now if you're of a sensitive disposition. Some of the issues have been referred to the makers to sort out. However, many can be avoided if everyone follows the instructions. In particular - and there's no delicate way to put this - **DO NOT 'HOVER' OVER THE TOILET SEAT!** If you really can't bear to be in contact with the seat, bring your own seat cover. This has caused some horrendous messes in the loo and in any case defeats the whole purpose of the device, as it just doesn't work if the seat isn't depressed. So, gents, you need to sit down, too.

AND - I really can't believe I'm having to write this - if the toilet is out of action for any reason do **NOT** relieve yourself in public! Regrettably this has been witnessed (by children). Go home; cross your legs; go to the park toilets. Whatever. Rant over!

Please park carefully

You'll have seen that the council has cleaned up the car parking areas at our request. The drainage has been improved by clearing the ditch on the main car park, near the hut. We'll try to get the ditch marked - in the meantime, please be careful! Also - and this may seem too obvious for words - please on no account park on any plots. This may sound daft but I can assure you, it does happen!

New manure supply

We may have found a reliable source of the gardeners' black gold - manure. The first supply arrived a couple of weeks back and was snapped up pretty quickly. The committee will be considering the practical details of this - where it can be stored, if it's practical to arrange to receive it every few weeks etc. A note of caution - this stuff is pretty raw so needs to be rotted down before it's set loose on plants. And when taking some for your plot, please bear in mind that we need to share it round, so don't be greedy. We'll keep you posted.

SOME SAFETY NOTES - FIRE AND LOCKS

There's a lot of dry material around the site at the minute so please make sure fires are completely put out before you leave the site.

Also, please don't leave the lock open, even if you're just 'popping out for a minute'. There are lots of people about as the weather is good (touch wood) and it is all too easy to take the open lock from the chain/gate.

In other news.....

- **Permanent structures** are not allowed at Harthill, apart from storeboxes less than 1.50m high. If in doubt, ask the committee for guidance.
- If you notice a **wheelbarrow** with a soft tyre please don't use it, as it damages the tyre. Just let us know about it and we'll get it fixed.
- We always welcome tenants' **children** on the site - they're the future of allotmenting. But please be aware that with the best will in the world, allotments can be a bit risky, so playing in the shed, for instance, can cause danger not just for the children but for other tenants.
- The association's petrol **trimmer** can be borrowed by tenants for especially heavy jobs, or if you haven't got your own. Just email the committee fao Barbara. You will need to be shown how to use it safely first.
- Please be careful with our **water** - we do have to pay for it! If you do need to water plants the best time is in the evening. If you water in the mid afternoon a lot of it evaporates pretty quickly.

AND FINALLY.....it's not just a list of instructions. Here's our beloved Harthill in early summer sunshine. Can't beat it!



