

The Harthill Plot

Summer Scorcher Special - July 2014

A little help from our friends

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- *Compost weeds
- *Park carefully
- *Scramble locks
- *Keep ponds safe

THANK YOU!

It's been a glorious summer (as he typed staring through a tropical downpour) and Harthill is looking great. But this comes at a cost. Paths have to be mowed, new members have to be signed up, money has to be raised. Even newsletters have to be typed. This is, of course, what the committee is for, but we can't do it all on our own. We don't have any more time on our hands than the rest of you and we all, of course, have our own plots to care for. So we're appealing to all members for some help. We'd welcome, of course, new committee members, but we also want people to volunteer for the thankless task of mowing all the paths. This is ideally done every week, occasionally every fortnight, and this year has been done by three people. This can't go on. It takes three hours hard graft to mow the paths on your own, obviously less when there are more people. So if you can volunteer to go on the mowing rota (once a year would help) or you can help out in other ways, please get in touch at hhallotments@hotmail.co.uk.

If we don't get volunteers we'll have to consider paying someone to do the mowing – we haven't got the cash for this so it would mean a levy on all plotheholders. Something we all want to avoid.

TREES

There are some pretty tall trees on plots at the moment (we're not talking about the trees around the perimeter) and there's no point having fruit that's too high to harvest. Of course, now isn't the time for pruning most trees but if you need advice on pruning, or with some help, please get in touch with the committee.

WEED MOUNTAINS AND OVERHANGING PLANTS

If you've piled your weeds in a huge mound, please remember, they ALWAYS need clearing. The allotment elves don't appear in the night to get rid of them. So they end up a pain, blocking paths, wasting space. It's best to compost weeds, or burn some of the really tough nuts. And please stop your plants from overhanging the paths, where brambles and raspberry canes in particular try to shred the arms of the mowers. I can tell you, this is VERY annoying. If they aren't cleared, executive action may be necessary.

GROUP HELP DAY – the next Group Help Day will be on Saturday 16 August. We'll be helping to clear vacant plots, widening a path, clearing the edges of the drives, mowing. And so on. If you have a plot you need urgent help with, we'll try to do that, too (you will have to turn up, though!).