

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

## Water Tanks

The water tanks dotted around on the allotment do sometimes leak or fail. At busy times of year they can also fill slowly. All of this can be very frustrating when you want to get your crops a drink but please do not make any adjustments or ad hoc repairs to a water tank.

Instead, if a tank is leaking then turn it off using the isolation lever and please let your overseer or site manager know of the problem and they will organise the repair.

Note that it is prohibited for any unauthorised tenant to interfere with the water tanks under any circumstances.

## New WAM Secretary



WAM has a very sensible rule that nobody should remain in major committee positions for longer than five years, except in emergencies. Fortunately, excellent volunteers continue to emerge, so Caroline Webb is in the process of taking over as secretary. Paul Eustice will look after the web site but otherwise, all communications previously sent to him can go to Caroline via [secretary@wamplots.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wamplots.org.uk). She will also hold the WAM phone for Area A.

## What a load of rubbish

The hard-working volunteers of our Working Parties are spending an unreasonable amount of their time, and your money, clearing rubbish from our sites, including a safe, a car sub frame and even the bottom half of a shop window dummy! Please remember your plot is not an alternative to the public tip and make sure that you only bring in material that you intend to use for horticultural purposes and periodically remove that accumulation of "useful stuff" that has not been used, and never will be. And finally, if and when you do give up your plot, please take your junk with you; do not leave it for others to clear up after you. That's simply not fair.



Submitted by Jack Powis – Area A Manager

## What to do on the plot now?

It's surprising how many tenants believe that Autumn and Winter is a time for hibernation when it comes to their plots. Yet now is the time to prepare the ground ready for the spring. The soil is just right to be turned over, and the cold winds and frosty night will break it up into a fine tilth perfect for sowing and planting into when the Spring comes. It's also a good time to turn your compost pile and spread out well-rotted manure so that the worms can drag it down into the ground ready to feed your crops.

Your fruiting shrubs and canes can be pruned back now, as can fruit trees (where the fruit contains seeds but not stones). On still days you could check your shed for leaks and fix that stiff door you didn't have time to do in the summer.

It might seem a little cold to venture onto the plot, but the couple of hours invested each week at this time of year could save you many more once the weather warms up again.

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## Theft on the plot



A situation arose recently where a relative of a tenant had to be told that they were no longer permitted to come onto an allotment site managed by WAM. This was partly because a number of items had been reported missing by other tenants which were subsequently located and returned.

We encourage tenants to report stolen items – however small - to Sussex Police on 101, and in writing to WAM. Theft from plots is decreasing, and when those responsible for stealing within our allotment community are caught “red-handed” there will be consequences.



All sites now have first aid boxes installed, each has a lock which is the same as the gate key for the site it is on.

The items inside are basic ones for simple injuries and first aid situations. If you need to use something please do replace it or let your overseer know that it is missing.

### Going to the tip?

### Winter hours

1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019  
9am – 4pm every day  
except Thursdays  
when it is closed.

Contributions and responses to this newsletter should be emailed to:

[newsletter@wamplots.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wamplots.org.uk)