

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018



Annual Invoices have been sent and unpaid rent is now due. Pay as soon as possible and note that the absolute latest we will accept payment is 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Any tenants with unpaid invoices after that date are subject to eviction. Tenants who are experiencing financial difficulties should get in touch with their Membership Secretary – details on site boards.

If you wish to give up your allotment then relinquishment forms are at the bottom of your invoice, on the WAM website & in the shops at West Tarring and Chesswood Farm.

## The new growing season has already begun

Spring is super busy for all plot holders with sowing, planting and weeding so now is the time to prepare your plot ready for the new season. Don't assume you will have time to clear your plot later. Start now, this late autumn is perfect digging weather, but not for much longer.

Make your allotment part of your routine, with regular visits at least once weekly rather than a single monthly chore. Nature doesn't allow for family commitments, holiday periods or personal injuries, and even in the coldest of winters the weeds continue to grow.



## Gloves and weeding

Most of us think nothing of reaching down to pull out that odd weed as we walk past it on the plot, but some plants bite back. There aren't many plants which can kill you, but there are lots which can give a nasty rash or other symptoms, so always wear gloves.

Keep an eye on young children on the plot too. Some very common plants when eaten can make them feel unwell, a few can have far more severe consequences. If you think your child has eaten a harmful plant then take them to A&E immediately, with a piece of the plant if that's possible.

More information is on the Health and Safety pages of our website - [wamplots.org.uk](http://wamplots.org.uk)

## Moling commencing at West Tarring

On Monday 5th November work will start on replacing the water pipes fed from the Canterbury Road meter. During the process, it will be necessary for pits to be dug at intervals along the intended path of the pipe, such that a pneumatically driven "mole" can install the replacement plastic pipe. The work should last for about one week.

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## Many hands make light work

WAM are always looking for more volunteers to help with the weekly maintenance of the sites. Most plot holders come with skills which can be utilised to mend things that break or tidy up areas which have been neglected. Even simple gardening tasks, such as trimming back shrubs or cutting grass, are all performed by volunteers, which means that rent money can be ploughed back into site improvements or maintenance tasks beyond the scope of the site working parties.

If you would like to join in and improve how the site you are on is maintained, you will be welcomed with open arms and a pair of gloves. Check your noticeboard for details, or speak to your overseer/site manager.

You might also consider joining the WAM committee. If you have organisational skills and are interested in making the sites better for everyone then please contact Peter Hannam - chair@wamplots.org.uk or 07715 211967 - for a confidential discussion on what is involved.

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## Old plant pots

These are very often left out in case anyone wants them. Piles of "useful" items such as these always end up blowing around the site and being a nuisance. If you can't find them a new home then please dispose of them off-site, either in your bin or the tip, or go to Haskins Roundstone Garden Centre where they are collected for recycling.



Some people on Chesswood are using the accessible beds area behind the shop as a shortcut for the toilet, car park or to collect manure, grass and chippings.

This area is a plot, not a communal space. Everyone is reminded that they are not permitted to walk onto or through other tenants' plots.

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