

The Plotholder

Newsletter of the Worthing and District

Allotments and Garden Association

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Vegetable Society

2014 issue 3 June

Who does what around here?

Not surprisingly, several people have been a little hazy about the difference between the various organisations concerned with allotments in Worthing. Here is a brief explanation:

Worthing and District Allotments and Garden Association, known as **WADAGA** or The Association, was set up in 1948 to look after the interests of its members, some of whom are gardeners without allotments. It is a purely voluntary body that runs the shops on three sites (for members only) an annual show and various social events. This is their newsletter. More information is at:

Web www.worthingallotments.co.uk

Email secretary@worthingallotments.co.uk

The Association set up **Worthing Allotment Management (WAM)** to run the pilot self-management scheme at West Tarring. All tenants on that site have a contract with WAM and they now elect its Executive, so it is quite independent of The Association, although several members of The Association Committee happen to be Tarring tenants and also on the WAM Exec at present, to get it started. That could change after the AGM in October 2014.

WAM appoints its own site-manager and overseers, looks after site management and maintenance, collect and keep the rent, let plots, send out letters for non-cultivation etc.

WAM has its own newsletter and web site for all WT tenants but anyone who wishes to appeal against a decision by WAM can write to, and then meet, a panel consisting of the chairs of WAM and The Association and the Secretary of The Association. More information is at:

Web www.wamplots.org.uk

Email secretary@wamplots.org.uk

To make sure other sites had a direct link to the Council to discuss maintenance of their sites, the Association also resurrected and chaired the old Overseers' Meetings, which had fallen into disuse. The first meetings enabled overseers and the new Council management

to meet and discuss short term issues. The group then developed into a forum for discussing long-term issues, including possible self-management for all sites as from October 2015. This group is called the **All Sites Working Group (ASWG)** and consists of several overseers from both large and small sites, the Council's Parks and Foreshore Manager and members of WAM Executive and The Association. It will call public meetings and arrange votes when it is ready to do so, but in the meantime it has a web page for information and contacts, and overseers are the source of information for each site.

Web <http://wamplots.org.uk/aswg/aswg.html>

Email aswg@wamplots.org.uk

Future developments are being discussed in each forum and there is much co-operation between members, with some overlap of membership. However, each has its own unique identity and purpose.

Both The Association and WAM are run on volunteer labour so if you wish to get involved, however briefly or experimentally, just let us know. The Association could use an 'understudy' Trading Manager to learn the ropes from Peter Everett. More help with the shops on weekend mornings is always useful. Contact plotholder@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 529084 to discuss details.



Meanwhile, we continue to attract new talent and Rik Pease, an overseer at Chesswood, has been unanimously elected as our **new Secretary**. His email is secretary@worthingallotments.co.uk and his phone number 07505677387.

Karen Shaw is an historian who has just taken over the Association's work in progress on the **history of allotments in Worthing**. The story so far is on <http://www.worthingallotments.co.uk/archive/history.html> but Karen has lots more archive material and will prepare the whole story for depositing in our local library. This will include interviews with members who have been around long enough to have lived through those changes, so she can capture their memories, perhaps with a photo. If you have any old documents, photos, videos you think she ought to see for that purpose, she is at 80 Castle Rd, BN131DG, ring 01903 265164 or email karenshaw123@hotmail.com.



From a **national point of view**, here is a message from Dab Alden about Farm Terrace allotments in Watford, where land they thought was protected is actually about to be sold off for development. Their poster says:

“Since 2010 Eric Pickles has disposed of 59 of the 61 Allotments that he has been asked to review and he is considering 10 more. Farm Terrace, a

118 year old Statutory Allotment in Watford is one of the sites that could soon be concreted over, but they are fighting back by taking Pickles to the High Court. The outcome of this case will set a legal precedent for all Allotments but legal action is expensive. Help Farm Terrace and protect your own plot by donating whatever you can to the fighting fund at www.gofundme.com/save-farm-terrace”.

Dab added:

We all hear on a regular basis about Allotments falling prey to developers but I believe Farm Terrace is a special case that will affect all of us. This is because three of the plot holders at Farm terrace have decided to take the Secretary of State (currently Eric Pickles) to Judicial review as they consider that the decision he has made is illegal.

The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 states that Statutory Allotment land can only be sold if the land is not needed for the purpose of allotments, or that some more suitable land is available, Farm Terrace allotments are well used and there is no “more suitable” land that the plot holders can be moved to.

Fighting the Government in court is an expensive business so please consider supporting Farm Terrace Allotments and look out for the court case which will begin on Friday July 25th - <http://savefarmterrace.wix.com/savefarmterrace>

www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/10774314/Allotments-being-sold-off-for-development-despite-government-pledges.html

Our World War 1 Commemorative allotment was planted in Beach House Park on 19th May (south east corner). If pigeons, crows, dogs and vandals permit, then it ought to be ready for its military duty in August. If you can spare a few minutes from time to time to help with weeding



and watering (only a 6 x 4 plot) then contact Paul Eustice on 01903 529084, plotholder@hotmail.co.uk

From our social secretary Tony Payne

Breakfast at West Tarring on Plot 90: on Saturday 26th April a very successful **Breakfast Morning BBQ** was held at West Tarring. We could not believe how lucky we were with the weather and a big **THANK YOU** for everyone who turned up.



Watch this space for the next one as the whole idea of this activity is to bring Allotment Holders together, to share their experience with growing and get to know other plot holders. This also promotes the Association, which is there for the plot holders.

Our trip to **Wisley on Saturday 5th July** is almost full but if you hurry you could nab the last few tickets. It is being run earlier than usual to offer a different range of plants in full bloom. The normal price is £9.75 just to get in but we can include the return coach trip for only £11. There are six pick up points and we should arrive at Wisley by 11.00, leaving at 4pm.

The coach only has 51 seats so we also have 4 spare tickets for anyone who wants to go by car and meet us there. For anyone who is not free that day but wants a private trip on another date, we have three special passes that each give one Association member plus one guest a **30% reduction on entry to any of the RHS gardens**. You can use it as many times as you like.

For more details contact Tony Payne, 23 Cissbury Avenue, Findon Valley, Worthing, BN14 ODU (01903 872909) - quick before it is too late.

Booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Goring garden open for the National Garden Scheme -**Channel View Gardens** 52 Brook Barn Way, Goring-by Sea, BN124DW, **28/29 June 2-5pm**

Formerly listed as Goring Gardens, this is a mature owner-designed garden by the sea, imaginatively blending traditional Tudor cottage style with subtropical, Mediterranean and Antipodean planting. Unusually designed structures, paths, arches and pond combine dense planting with shady viewpoints and sunny patios.

Entry £3.50. Children free. Teas in aid of Cancer Research and plants in aid of Palatine School garden fund. For more info see www.ngs.org.uk . To book visits on other dates contact Jennie and Trevor Rollings, 01903242431 tjrollings@gmail.com

From Show Secretary Jack Powis

By the time you read this the Show Schedule for this year's show will probably be in our shops, or on its way from the printers. This tells you everything you need to know about the show, which will be held at Oak Grove College on Saturday 30th August, so pick up a copy and start thinking about what you will enter. If you have not tried showing before, now's your chance, there is a section specifically for novices, it's great fun and if we do not get newcomers each year the show has no future! We have introduced a Master Gardener class this year which should be interesting and we have brought back the homemade wine section so if you made any last year don't drink it all until after the 30th August. Also remember we will need plenty of helpers on the day so don't be shy, we really do need you.

For the really competitive, here are some practice runs:

New Forest Show held 29th June - 31st July at Brockenhurst - entry by 23rd July

Dorset County Show held 6th/7th September Entry by 28th August

Each summer we hold two competitions and award trophies for the **best allotment and the best front garden**. They are open to all members and traditionally the number of entries is very low, which is a pity. There are lots of good plots which should be entered and there is cash to be won! Also we are an association of gardeners and there must be plenty of nice

front gardens that the judges would love to see. So this year please have a go, it's totally painless and the odds of winning are very high!

Gardens and plots will be judged about a month later by two members of The Association. The winners will receive a trophy at the annual show. Judges take account of the condition of plants, colour and harmony, design and layout (including any special features) lasting potential and cleanliness (i.e. weed free). Entry forms are on the end pages of this edition.



Bill's Corner

In our climate, it takes around 200-400 years to form 1 cm of soil. It is our most precious resource, you pay rent for it, but we still see people sticking it into plastic bags and heaving it down the local tip. This is sometimes because they have been advised by well-meaning neighbours not to put weeds on their compost heap. Twaddle. Almost everything rots down to useful compost, especially if you chop it up first and add a bit of muck.

There are a few exceptions - thick perennial roots, bindweed and couch roots need to be left in a pile to dry. Then shake the earth off and burn them in November. But to waste green matter when compost is so expensive makes no sense, and to remove soil from the site ought to be a hanging offence. More details on

<http://www.worthingallotments.co.uk/hints/compost.html> and anyone who wants to disagree is welcome to do so on <https://www.facebook.com/WADAGA1>.

Useful fact 1- if you pick up a **snail** in your garden and sling it next door it will always come back. They need to be moved at least 20 metres to spoil their homing device. Not as daft as they look.

Useful fact 2 - if you are making a deep bed and need some soil you can contact plotholder@hotmail.co.uk for a large supply, free.

Don't forget to use your site shops - they not only have what you need at very good prices, but are also a hub of information and advice. Open every Saturday and Sunday 10-12, they really ought to be your first stop before you get ripped off at garden centres.



Sussex Manures - Delivered Manure

Sussex Manures is offering deals on our aged and shredded horse manure.

Transit Tipper Load 2.5 cubic metres of manure equates to *50 barrow loads*. This is amazing value and a perfect amount for a standard size allotment or to share. It is available at £120 including VAT and delivery.

Bulk bags, (0.6 cubic metres) These are great value, as they hold at least 16 x 60 litre bags of manure and costs £60 including VAT and delivery, or **two** for £110.00.

Puckamuck is horse manure from stables in Surrey and Sussex. We mature it for a minimum of 12 months during which time we shred and aerate it regularly. Finally **we deliver it** in 60 litre bags, in bulk bags or on our 2.5 cubic metre capacity tipper truck.

Puckamuck is naturally baked during the maturing process, the temperature inside the pile is sufficient to eradicate irritating weed seeds but not too high to discourage worm activity or damage the product. It's an age-old, organically sourced fertilizer with which you can only improve the quality of your soil and crops.

Mulch, top dress or mix it in for award winning vegetables, fruit and roses. Use it all year round and put natural goodness back into the soil. We also offer 60 litre bags of manure at £5.00 per bag collected from the High Street Findon or see the website for delivery prices

Call George Derrick 01903 877689 or 07899 676166

Sussex Manures Findon West Sussex. www.puckamuck.co.uk or
email: info@puckamuck.co.uk



Booking form for Wisley

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email :

I would like to book tickets at £11 each

Total £

I enclose a cheque payable to Worthing and District Allotment and Garden Association.

I would like people to be collected from (tick as appropriate)

- 9 a.m. Brougham Rd. / Benedict Drive
- 9.10 The Dome, Seafront
- 9.20 Rose Walk , Goring
- 9.30 Boulevard, Westmoreland House
- 9.40 Offington Lane/ Thomas A'Becket
- 9.50 Offington Roundabout A24 Northside

**Best kept garden and allotment
competition entry form**

**Return by Saturday 28th June to Jack Powis, 38 The Boulevard, BN13 1LB
(01903 243216).**

Name

Address (include postcode)

Membership Number:

Please enter my name for the (tick box/es)

BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

My Allotment is at (site) Plot No(s)

Signature:

Date