

# the plotholder

ISSUE 1 Feb

2016

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## WELCOME

I would start by saying Happy New year but for most of us it was soggy and rather nasty for the first few weeks.

This sentence was written under a weak sun on a dry day and the weather may improve by the time we go to print, but certainly we shall have to think about what all this rain has taken away from the soil and how best to put it right.

Firstly, the ground has probably been flattened and needs forking over to get some air into it. Treading on wet soil makes it worse so ideally keep to the path or reading on a board. If you covered your ground in autumn with loads of well-rotted **manure or compost** that will have helped to protect the soil. If not, this is a



Bi-monthly newsletter of  
Worthing Allotments and  
Gardens Association (WAGA)

Affiliated to the Royal  
Horticultural Society and the  
National Vegetable Society

## JOIN US ONLINE

As you are on line, you might wish to refresh your memory of our web site and Facebook pages:

[worthingallotments.co.uk](http://worthingallotments.co.uk)

<http://waga1.weebly.com/facebook.html>

good time to add some, but it has to be very well-rotted already or it takes nitrogen out of the ground. Free supplies turn up occasionally at Tarring and Chesswood - first come first served - but if it has just been delivered then pile it up somewhere for next autumn. If you need pallets to make a container, free supplies will be at Tarring and Chesswood until they run out.

Another thing many people add this time of year is **lime**, but NEVER MIX lime with manure, or with sulphate of ammonia. Use one or the other, depending on what you wish to grow and the pH level of your soil.

For beginners, we should explain that the soil pH is a number that describes how acidic or alkaline your soil is. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral. An acid soil has a pH value below 7.0 and above 7.0 the soil is alkaline. For the technically minded, pH is short for 'power of hydrogen' because we are measuring ions of hydrogen in a water based solution; 7 is the measure for pure water. It is a logarithmic scale - a pH of 3 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 4 and 100 times (10 times 10) more acidic than a pH value of 5. *(If you are not technically minded, just ignore that but.)*

If you are getting ready for potatoes you won't want to add lime as you will be adding muck and they should not be mixed. But it helps to know that commercial growers like to keep to a pH between 4.8 to 5.4, because an acidic soil helps to prevent scab. Most of us are happy enough with a range of 6.0 to 6.5, but if you can lower the figure with more muck, which is acidic, you might get better yields and less scab. If you do get scab don't worry - peel it off and eat them anyway!

Brassicas, on the other hand, may need lime. Club root is a more likely if the soil is too acidic. Cabbages and peas like 6-7.5, cauliflowers 5.5-7.5 and leeks 6-8. That's a fairly wide range so you don't have to be too fussy, but lime also helps to break up clay soils to make a finer, crumbly texture, so if or if your soil is claggy then it's well worth using it. But not to excess - a very alkaline soil locks up essential nutrients. The average garden will thrive at about 6.5. **More information at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice>**

## NEED MORE LAND?

If you are still on the waiting list for a plot, your garden is too small or you just feel like branching out, how's this for an offer? Worthing Borough Council's Peter Whish, the Parks Community Engagement Manager, can offer you or your club or social group the use of flower beds, shrub beds, grassed areas - whatever size or kind you want to get involved with. If you want Worthing to look more interesting then get stuck in and plant it pretty.

**There is no charge for the use or the space so contact [peter.whish@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:peter.whish@adur-worthing.gov.uk) (01273 263166/07860594132) and can discuss it with you.**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

# QUIZ EVENING



Saturday 5th March 2016  
7pm Onwards  
All Saints Church Hall,  
Findon.  
Teams of up to 8 people

£5 per person (Ploughman's Lunch Included). Bring your own drinks. Evening Raffle. Tickets available in the shops from 30th January.



<http://www.worthingallotments.co.uk>



**The annual trip** may be to Great Dixter or to an orchard - we'll decide asap and let you know, but if you have a strong preference feel free to express it.

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## SHOW

We are thinking about running a BBQ at the show this year but the venue insist we use a gas-fired appliance. It is more sensible to buy than rent so if you see one going at a bargain price do mention it asap.

## OTHER NEWS

The wheels from the car go round and round  
Two Vauxhall car wheels found at Chesswood - free to collector if you ask at the shop. How they got there is anyone's guess...



## SHOP NEWS

- Janet Robins

At the AGM I said we would be making improvements to the shop on the **Humber Site**. We received several quotes for making improvements to the existing buildings and are now applying for funding for a container, similar to the ones at

West Tarring site, to use as a new, larger shop. The old shop will then be used as a storeroom.

A decision on the grant is expected around February/ March. If you wish to contact me about anything to do with these changes, please do so on 01903 266522 or [janetrobins05@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetrobins05@yahoo.co.uk).

At the time of writing we had a small number of unclaimed raffle prizes. I have rung those concerned but if not collected by Feb 1st they will be back in the kitty for next time.

**Don't forget you can only use the shops if you have renewed your membership - due in October!**



# SEED POTATOES

ARRIVED AND READY FOR COLLECTION

PLEASE BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD SO THAT WE CAN IDENTIFY YOUR ORDER QUICKLY.

We will also have a selection of seed potatoes available for purchase in case you forgot to order. These will be priced at £3.00 for a 2.5kg net.

**OUR SHOPS**

Chesswood Farm Pages Lane, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 2QL	Humber Humber Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NW	West Tarring Ringmer Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13
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# Arriving in February

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## Onions

Red Karmen

Santero

500 gram nets

£2.00

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## Shallots

Golden Gourmet

500 gram nets

£2.30

### Our Shops

Chesswood Farm  
Pages Lane,  
Worthing,  
West Sussex,  
BN11 2QL

Humber  
Humber Avenue,  
Worthing,  
West Sussex,  
BN13 3NW

West Tarring  
Ringmer Road,  
Worthing,  
West Sussex,  
BN13

[www.facebook.com/Worthing-Allotments-and-Gardens-Association](https://www.facebook.com/Worthing-Allotments-and-Gardens-Association)





**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SHUT THE GATES!**  
WE ARE TRYING TO REDUCE THEFT AND VANDALISM, SO LOCKED GATES ARE A NECESSITY - HOWEVER SHORT YOUR VISIT.

You will have noticed this issue looks more visually appealing. Thanks to Donna Kirstein, recently arrived at St Andrew's site, for her design work. She is usually found at [www.donnakirstein.com](http://www.donnakirstein.com) and [www.hexinphotography.com](http://www.hexinphotography.com)