

## ***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 1 February**

**Potato orders are now in and can be collected from the site shops. Onion sets and shallots should also be in by now and are sold on a first-come-first served basis.**

***Please make sure you have a current membership card you can produce when using the shops.***



*From social secretary Tony Payne:*

A big thank you to John Scrace for his talk on Bees on 30th November. The audience included 30 members from the Association and everybody thoroughly enjoyed it. John had honey to sell and I was very lucky to get one of the honeycombs, which I treated myself to at Christmas for my breakfasts.

It was so nice to see someone with so much enthusiasm for his hobby and so willing to share it with others. I had no idea what hard work it was looking after the little bees. You are very lucky at the Allotments where John keeps his bees, as they are pollinating all your plants. I can only hope that he can direct a few of them up to Findon Valley.

Thank you to everybody who came and supported us and look forward to seeing you at the **Association Dinner** on the 15th February, we still have a few spaces left so ring now if you

missed the deadline. Please support the dinner and all events that are put on for you, this year.

The Association run a **PUB NIGHT** at the North Star on the last Tuesday of each month starting about 8.30 pm. It is a friendly, informal evening where we chat about anything and everything, and for beer drinkers the selection is terrific.

Transition Town Worthing are running their **Seed Swap** on Saturday 8th February, from 12.30 – 4 pm at Oak Grove College (where we have our show). They'll have stalls, including one from the Association, and information on community projects, horticulture as healing, herbal preparations and creative re-cycling, with talks on water in the vegetable garden, how to save seeds and organic growing. Entry £2 (children free) - see [www.transitiontownworthing.ning.com/page/seed-swap](http://www.transitiontownworthing.ning.com/page/seed-swap)

Happy and Healthy New Year and good gardening, with hopefully some sunshine.

Tony Payne 01903 872909



### **Working parties**

**These are continuing at West Tarring** on Tuesday and Saturday 10-12, meeting in the central car park. All plots are now let and astounding amounts of ivy have been removed from overgrown boundaries. These will eventually be replanted with bee-friendly plants so they are decorative and useful. If you have any spare seeds or plants (spare lavender cuttings, annuals, biennials, borage, comfrey etc) please get in touch and we will use them as ground is cleared. Here is a list of useful plants for pollination:

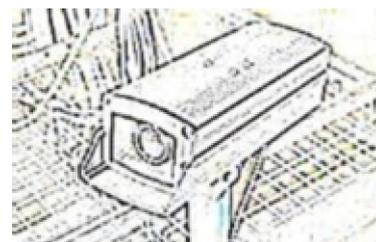
<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Media/PDFs/Advice/Plants-for-bees>

**Working parties at Chesswood** have also proved very useful and if you can possibly spare an hour or two contact Bill at the stores or Gloria (Overseer) on 01903 203715

### **Security issues**

These are discussed at every AGM and we were asked to keep you up to date. At Chesswood Bill is putting together a costed proposal to use a local electrical supply to run cctv as an experiment. At West Tarring WAM have put in two bids for external funding, one for tools for working parties and another for a shipping container to keep them in, which would then be useful secure storage if it arrives.

Decisions will be made by the external bodies in February and March. We'll keep you posted. In theory the council is getting various fences repaired and replaced and fitting



some new top irons, but work has been slowed to a halt by emergency flood-related repairs elsewhere.

Meanwhile, we have also been rethinking the policy on border planting. Originally, we had started to save blackberry plants to use as deterrents. Then WAM working parties started to encounter thickets of old plants that had been overgrown around the old boundaries and realised now much work was involved if they were not pruned very regularly. The latest thinking is that (a) narrow pathways have no room for expanding brambles and (b) wider borders could easily get out of control. Debate continues.....join in at the shops, on site or Facebook if you wish - all ideas welcome. But gun turrets have been ruled out.

## Website

[Www.worthingallotments.co.uk](http://www.worthingallotments.co.uk) has been very quickly redesigned and will continue to change over the year. If you have any comments about how it can better serve your needs, just send an email to [plotholder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:plotholder@hotmail.co.uk). And don't forget we now have a **facebook page** as well so you can make comments and ask questions between newsletters.



### Bill's corner.

Bill has now been through the calendar year, dispensing wise advice from his many decades of experience. The basic stuff doesn't change much so to avoid repeating it all we recommend you take a look at the new web site. It has pages of advice to take you through the gardening year month by month, with hints and tips on growing and ideas on pests and diseases. There is a special page for beginners but also lots of links for the more experienced. But Bill won't be absent altogether. He'll pop up from time to time with seasonal tips, starting with the problem of boggy ground.

The old advice was to avoid doing anything if the mud sticks to your boots. Which is all very well except that this year is so warm the weeds have never stopped growing and the slugs must be having a population explosion. It may well be worth treading on a board to turn over the smooth, caked surface and get some air in before the weeds get any bigger. But be careful - a very wet spade full is surprisingly heavy. Maybe use a fork?

So much goodness will have been rained out of the top layers, we need to put it back again. Compost would do it if you have enough. If not (and several inches is only just enough) you can get both organic and non-organic fertilisers from the site shops. The next issue will contain some basic info on the chemistry of growing - what you need and how to get it - but remember you live by the sea and seaweed is very good fertiliser. Just harvest before it starts to rot, ideally after a good storm, and either put in on your compost heap or, if you are brave or with no sense of smell, soak it to make a liquid feed. Comfrey leaves do the same job very effectively, with an even worse smell.

## Dumping and recycling

One person's rubbish is another person's useful find, within reason. It is kind of people to leave tools and plastic flowerpots at the shops to be redistributed but please try to do so when the shop is open, or they can get thrown about by wind and foxes.



There are various mechanisms for removing other rubbish from your site. If you don't have a car then speak with your overseer and help will usually be forthcoming. Some sites are recycling metal, making pea sticks from prunings and even re-siting whole sheds. And if you have asbestos we can have it wrapped and properly disposed of. But whatever you do, please speak with an overseer before you move it. Unofficial re-positioning can cause us more work.

## New blood needed

Other commitments have caused Ian Dunster to resign as chair, and his wife Angela as Treasurer. We'd like to thank both of them for their contribution and to recognise Ian's many years of hard work, not only on committee but managing the shop in all weathers. Our archive ([www.worthingallotments.co.uk/archive/history.html](http://www.worthingallotments.co.uk/archive/history.html)) contains plenty of pictures of Ian working away for the common good and it is generally believed that is what kept him so young.



In the short term, the secretary is combining these roles, but that is just to keep us going. It's time for some new faces on the committee, especially from some unrepresented sites. If you don't want to take on a major role straight away (treasurer, secretary, editor of newsletter, minutes secretary, webmaster???) we can find plenty of smaller jobs for you while you just listen in and get to know your way around. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30, so if you want to talk about it contact Paul Eustice on 529084 or [plholder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:plholder@hotmail.co.uk)



## New Plants to grow

Well, it had to happen. We've all heard about edible flowers in salads so why not vegetables in your flower vase? Apparently the flowers of the carrot Dara are lovely pink jobs, "maturing to crimson purple" that you can use as a self-sowing biennial. No information on what it smells like - does anyone know.?

From [http://mygarden.rhs.org.uk/blogs/graham\\_rice](http://mygarden.rhs.org.uk/blogs/graham_rice)

**And finally**



*Martin sets high standards*



*Bernie wins another trophy*

It is with great sadness that we recall the passing of two long standing Association members. We enter 2014 without the company of Martin Ellmore and Bernie Broad, both of whom will be remembered not only for their own horticultural achievements but, even more importantly, for their great generosity to others.

Bernie, a top class judge, for many years worked with Ian Dunster to make decisions on the Association's best kept allotment and best kept front garden and the council's Worthing in Bloom. What he didn't know about gardening wasn't worth knowing.

Old style gardeners with a sense of humour that cheered us up whatever the weather, they will be much missed.



## 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 £95.00 plus VAT (£114).

**Bulk bags**, (0.6 cubic metres) These are great value, as they hold at least 16 60 litre bags of manure and costs £54.60 or **two** for £100.00

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 £4.61 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](http://www.puckamuck.co.uk)

or email: [info@puckamcuk.co.uk](mailto:info@puckamcuk.co.uk)

Advertising rates for this newsletter include printed (b/w) and on-line (colour) versions; whole page £30, half page £20, quarter £10, eighth £5. Web site space may also be negotiated for suitable products and services. Contact [plotholder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:plotholder@hotmail.co.uk) 01903 529084