

SOME NEW RESIDENTS

Becky from Plot 108 has recently released 2 hedgehogs on the South side. They were brought in to her clinic by members of the public. They see a range of injuries from animal attacks, grass trimmer injuries to road traffic accidents. Part of the rehab process is monitoring their weight and only releasing them once they are an appropriate size and well enough. If a hedgehog is wandering about during the day it might be a sign it is unwell. In the event of finding an ill or injured hedgehog you should take it to a veterinary clinic as they are obliged to give aid to wildlife where necessary.

Netting- If a hedgehog is determined to get under it they will dig to get access if it's pegged/held down. Their front claws are sharp. If you leave a gap then it will be pretty obvious to a bird etc to get access too so it's catch 22! But if you use slug pellets then you should anchor netting down as it's better at least to try and avoid access.



GIVING UP?

We have recently had several plots which have been given up in a terrible state. The work involved in getting the plot cleared involves volunteers strimming, spraying and removing the rubbish. If you are considering giving up your plot please don't leave it till it becomes unmanageable. There are a multitude of reasons why a plot becomes difficult to cope with especially for those with family commitments, work and illness. However, it is hugely frustrating for neighbouring plot holders when weeds are left to spread on to their plot.

WATER BATHS

Please make sure that if the water bath you use is very close to the ground that you leave an escape route for any animals which get in but can't get out. A plank of wood secured by a brick is the perfect solution. Fortunately we have now had much needed rain but for over a month we have had to rely on the baths for watering. If you have a structure on your plot please collect rain water in a water butt. This will help to reduce the costly water bill we pay but is also much better for the plants.

URBAN GREEN PLOT COMPETITION

Urban Green are running the City Plot Competition again this year. Last year we had several winners and the site was awarded 3rd place. The judging will take place in July. We will look around the site for suitable entries and let plot holders know if they have been put forward.

TRADING HUT

There are still a number of second hand tools and plastic compost bins available from the Trading Hut. We have also had some large trays donated which are available for £2

Please bring any excess produce to sell on Sunday mornings to the Trading Hut.

Article from Denise Plot 39

There are lots of these around. Part of the dandelion family, they grow to a meter high and seed prolifically. They flower in the morning and close in the afternoon. Easy to remove when small, they do try to take over! I think the common name is "goat's beard" (yellow) or salsify (purple). I hadn't seen them till last year but now there are lots .

Comment from the committee

If you have them on your allotment, please can you remove the flower heads before they seed.



BREAK-INS

Annoyingly there have been several sheds broken into with baths broken and equipment spread around the site. The recent break-in seems to be only on the North side. Please check your sheds and plot and if you find anything that doesn't belong to you please bring it to the trading hut on Sunday.

The police have previously told us that individual plot holders should report incidents to them. The more reports they receive the more likely they are to patrol the area. If you have been affected please ring them. The Secretary will also be notifying them.

On Sunday 25th a man and woman were asked to leave the South side when it became obvious that they were not plot holders. Please be vigilant and if someone is hanging around the gates do not let them in unless you are sure they have a plot.