

Newsletter Summer 2018



Committee News

The committee met on 10 July to follow up the AGM held in April. There was a discussion about how to improve attendance as it had been lower than previous years – only 20 people.

The committee are reviewing TAA water policy of which more in the next newsletter.

Site Security



Sadly we have had reports of produce thefts at Park Road, on this occasion it was gooseberries. Several bushes on different plots had been completely and neatly

stripped so it highly unlikely to have been animals or birds. Please be vigilant and if you see someone who you don't recognise on a plot near you ask. They may be a friend there to water while the allotment holder is on holiday but they may not. Also if any of your crops have disappeared please let a committee member know.

We have been told by a number of plot holders that when they have arrived at the Park Road site they have found the gate unlocked. Please, please always lock the gate even if you are planning a very short visit.

Finally, a plea to parents and dog owners. Your children are very welcome at the allotments and we hope they enjoy learning about growing fruit and vegetables but please make sure that they are supervised and stay on your plot or the main paths at all times. Apart from the fact that no one should be on another plot holders plot unless they have been invited, allotments are not safe play spaces! If you bring your dog to the allotments please keep him/her on your plot.

Gardening Tips – Coping with Drought



A cold wet spring followed by a hot dry summer has certainly been challenging for allotment gardeners. Here are some tips for surviving a summer drought.

- Weeding and hoeing. Weeds compete with your crops for the water that is available so remove the competition! Hoeing loosens the soil so water gets right down to the roots of your plants which is where they need it.
- After rain or watering spread a mulch of garden compost or well rotted manure to retain moisture in the soil and keep it damp.
- Effective watering. It is better to give a few plants a good soaking than to give everything a sprinkle as this gets the water right down to the roots. Try to water in the early morning or evening. In the middle of the day you will lose much of the water through evaporation. Using open ended plastic bottles or tubes sunk into the soil will enable you to direct water right down to the roots.

