

## **Hangingwater Allotment Association (HAA)**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Present:** Rob Hawkins, Alec Kokinis, Greta Pearman, Paul and Annie Grassick, Jill Gibson, Martin Waller, Marcia Giblin, Peter Morgan, Pat and Brian Walker, Emma Coldham, Martin Hodgson, Danielle Watson, David Watson,

The meeting was chaired by Paul Grassick

**Apologies:** Sally Huckle, Ken Craghill, Cathy Ivey

### **Matters arising:**

- A second small delivery of manure was made as requested by Paul at the last meeting.
- Rob is taking on strimming duties until Geoff recovers.
- £240.48 was raised at the plant sale. Thank you very much for all the donations.
- Sharrowvale – no volunteers came forward to organise a stall so our next plant sale will be at the Friends of the Porter Valley Autumn Fair.

### **Agenda Items:**

- Water

a) The tap near plot 70 provides only a trickle. The supply from this tap was fine before the water supply “improvements” undertaken last year.

b) The tap near plot 12 (?) is faulty. The wrong tap has been put on the pipe. As a result the water on that part of the site has been disconnected.

These issues will be reported to the allotment office but we would be grateful if individuals would report problems with the water supply as they become aware of them. The more complaints received by the allotment office the sooner they will be rectified.

- Membership

9 more members have joined since the last meeting.

- Gate labelling

It was requested that we label the gates for future reference. The top gate near Carr Bank Road is now gate A, the “hard-standing” gate is now B, the middle gate is C and the lower gate, D.

- Fireblight

Fireblight has been seen on a number of trees. The following notes are from Wikipedia:

"**Fire blight**, also written **fireblight**, is a contagious disease affecting apples, pears, and some other members of the family Rosaceae.

The causal pathogen is *Erwinia amylovora*,<sup>[1]</sup> a Gram-negative bacterium in the family Enterobacteriaceae. Pears are the most susceptible, but apples, loquat, crabapples, quinces, hawthorn, cotoneaster, pyracantha, raspberry and some other rosaceous plants are also vulnerable.

Fireblight is a systemic disease. The term "fire blight" describes the appearance of the disease, which can make affected areas appear blackened, shrunken and cracked, as though scorched by fire.

Primary infections are established in open blossoms and tender new shoots and leaves in the spring when blossoms are open.

The only effective treatment for plants already infected is to prune off the affected branches and remove them from the area. Plants or trees should be inspected routinely for the appearance of new infections. The rest of the plant can be saved if the blighted wood is removed and burnt before the infection spreads to the roots. There is no known cure; prevention is the key.

We all need to keep an eye on our trees.

- Flatworms Yet another problem to look out for: (notes again from Wikipedia). Very few have been seen on the site but it is worth looking out for them because they eat earthworms and hence degrade the soil.

The **New Zealand flatworm** (*Arthurdendyus triangulatus*) is a large [land flatworm](#) native to [New Zealand](#). It can vary from 5 mm in length when hatched to approximately 17 centimetres (6.7 in) in mature adults. The ventral surface of the flatworm is a pale buff colour while the dorsal surface is dark brown. Young flatworms vary in colour from white to pale orange and develop their adult colouration as they grow.

During the day, flatworms can be found resting on the surface of soil underneath objects in close contact with the ground. They may also be found beneath the soil surface hunting for earthworms.

Reproduction involves the production of egg capsules of about 8 mm in length. The capsules are shiny, flexible and cherry red in colour at first and later darken to black after several days. After an unknown incubation period, several pale, tiny flatworms hatch out of the brittle capsule.

- On-site toilet – if anyone wants a key, please ask Alec. The toilet is maintained by the good will of its users. At the moment it is not felt that a rota is required.

- Calendar of Events

Summer Solstice Event – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30

FOPV Autumn Show produce stall – 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Cow manure delivery – September – arrange early enough to order well rotted manure if possible.

Straw – plot holders to collect from Sheep Hill Farm on Long Line as required.

Skip – November.

Bonfire night November 5<sup>th</sup>

**Date and time of next meeting:**

July 5th, 7.30 pm, The Rising Sun, Fulwood Road