

The **HARTHILL** Plot

Early "summer" issue

June 2015

Thieves targetting allotments!

Allotments across the city have recently been targetted by thieves. Plotolders have had valuable equipment stolen at at least four sites. Although we at Harthill have had vandalism and plant theft problems in the past we have not yet been affected by this latest wave of thefts. There can be no room for complacency, so make sure you take security precautions such as:

- *Don't leave valuable gear on site;*
- *Don't lock any containers on your plot - it just makes them a target;*
- *Scramble the locks;*
- *Don't give the lock combination to any non-plot holders.*

On a related theme, several non-plot holders have been on the site recently and have said they are *watering* a plot in someone's absence. Your plants really don't need much if any watering at this time of year. We're hardly experiencing a drought! So save water and help site security at the same time.

Mersey Forest

Barbara has been taking saplings from Harthill to Mersey Forest, where they are being used in a variety of ways - in a school hedge, an adventure playground and so on. When we showed City Council cabinet member *Steve Munby* round the site recently he was impressed by this and the general atmosphere and appearance of the site. We have high hopes that Steve will help us to get the sandstone wall repaired before it becomes dangerous.

Silverleaf

There's evidence of *silverleaf infection* on some trees. This mainly, but not solely, affects plums and damsons but everyone need to be alert for it. The leaves have a silvery sheen and the branches will die off. It is highly infectious so if you spot any take remedial action - contact us if you need advice.

Mowing; stones; weed dumping

We still need volunteers for *mowing* - see a committee member or contact us by email at hhallotments@hotmail.co.uk. And help mowers by keeping the paths near your plot free of stones or other obstructions. Incredibly, someone is still *dumping weeds* on the verge. This is completely antisocial and just creates work for other people. DON'T DO IT! Incidentally, push mowers and shears are available in the hut to help you keep your plots tidy. Please replace them after use.

Association Secretary

We still don't have a secretary - Barbara and others are filling in as best as possible but we really do need someone to take this role on - any volunteers out there?

Group Help day

Next Group Help day is at *10am, Sunday 28 June*. This is when we do those jobs that we all need doing. Remember, they aren't done by the allotment elves, so come along and pitch in!

