

# SWAY ALLOTMENTS

Newsletter #5, April 2022

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## Night stealth attacks by the Easter Bunny prevented

The southern aspect of the allotment site has been terrorised by an early Easter Bunny raiding crops in the dead of night.

A distraught plot holder, Anne Nominous, declared she was distraught at the prospect of ruined crops even before she had planted them. The plot holder recounted:

'If there is something strange,  
In your neighbourhood,  
Who you gonna call,  
Bunny Busters'

When they got the call the Allotment Committee rolled into action and attached extra high bunny proof galvanised wire along the length of the southern fence.

A disgruntled bunny, who did not want to be named,, said 'Access has been denied, our 'bunny club' is no more. I will seek my carrots elsewhere.. I blame Brexit.'

A spokesman for the Allotment Committee said 'Our tails are up.. we never liked all this bunny business'.



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## Wishing all plot holders a Happy Easter

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***SWAY ASSOCIATION OF ALLOTMENT HOLDERS***

Chairman: Brent Knox ~ Treasurer: Henryk Andruszko

Committee: Ian Stone, Derek Elkins, Pam Capon, Mike Green, Tony Wade

Parish Clerk: Katie Walding

# **WELCOME** to the Spring '22 edition of Sway Allotment News...



With the sun shining and the crops growing, I hear you ask, what else has been happening at the allotments?

## **RATS and FOXES**

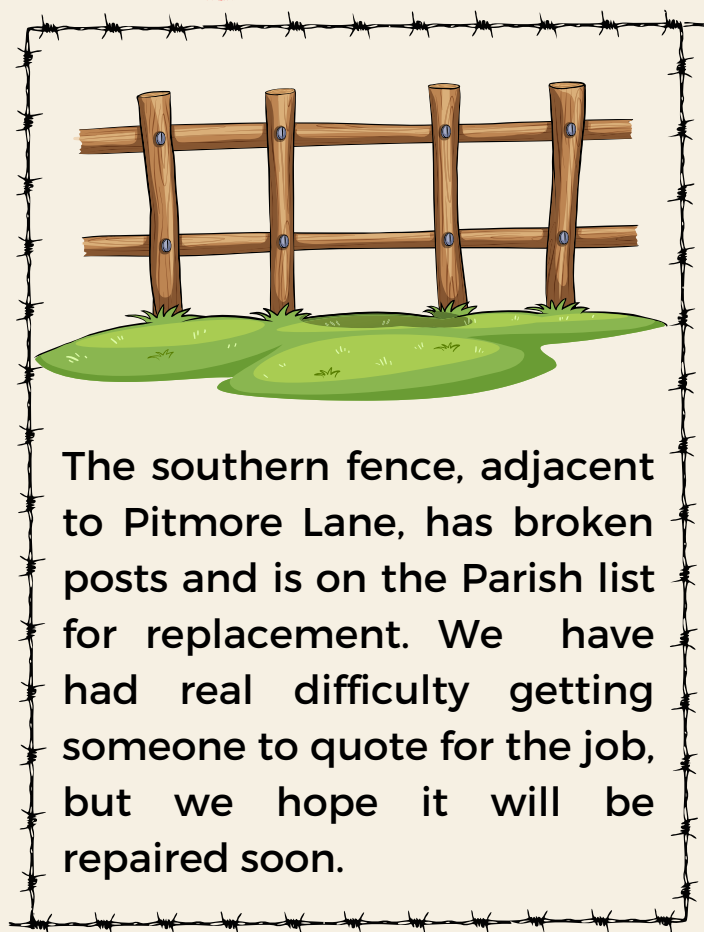
Apart from 'Bunnygate' we have had a return of the dreaded rat, and a fox has been wandering the site without permission.

Not only do the rats damage crops they also bring with them the dangers of Weil's Disease, so everyone is reminded to practice good hygiene and to wear gloves.

To address the rat problem, the recent annual inspection of plots examined compost areas. Despite previous reminders to manage compost heaps by regularly turning them, a number were still in a poor condition.

An unmanaged compost heap is an ideal home for the rat. Within a short space of time a colony can develop as the rats can breed many times over – they can have up to 84 young in one year! During the inspection there were visible signs of rats using some compost areas so for the benefit of all please manage your heap.

**Brent Knox, Chairman**



The southern fence, adjacent to Pitmore Lane, has broken posts and is on the Parish list for replacement. We have had real difficulty getting someone to quote for the job, but we hope it will be repaired soon.

Greetings from the Parish Council Office, and a big thanks to you all for your commitment and enthusiasm for the allotments, and especially to your committee for their unceasing efforts to make the site run smoothly and happily for us all.

**Katie, Parish Clerk**

# NOTICE THE NOTICE

Hopefully by the time you read this this you will have noticed the new noticeboard at the entrance (if you missed it, we have failed).

Last year the Carnival Committee and the Parish Council gave donations towards a new noticeboard and a big thank you goes to both organisations. These contributions, plus the money the committee raised from Kings Seeds by doing all of the administration of the seed club and making a bulk purchase, meant we were able to upgrade the notice board and hopefully keep important notices dry and readable.

The old notice board will be refurbished and part will be available for plot holders to put up notices, e.g. for sale, wanted, free etc.

*Traditionally plot holders have left surplus crops and useful plot hardware by the old notice board for the benefit of others. We have developed this with the introduction of a FREE SEED EXCHANGE. If you have surplus seeds drop them in the boxes inside the desk. All plot holders can then help themselves to any surplus seeds.*

Please see the noticeboard for the latest information. If you have an email address but did not receive this newsletter electronically, please notify the Parish Clerk at [clerk@sway-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sway-pc.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

# THE OLD NOTICEBOARD AREA

## **This area is not a dumping ground for your unwanted rubbish.**

Recently a broken plastic bin, which is of little use to anyone, has been left there together with a sheet of double glazing. Plot holders are reminded that glass should not be used.

Such items should be taken to the tip by the plot holder. The committee are not there to deal with plot holders' rubbish.



This is a very useful system for helping plot holders get rid of weeds and green waste.

A list of the people who hold a green bag for your plot is on the notice board.

HOWEVER...

1. Green bags have gone missing. We should have 10 bags. Could any one with an Allotment Committee green bag please return it to the GREEN BAG area by the gate.

2. Plotholders continue to overfill bags making them too heavy. The bin men reject such bags.

3. Plotholders continue to put soil in the bags. This is not allowed and again causes rejection by the bin men.

4. Plotholders have put out Blue IKEA bags full of soil and waste. This will never be collected and the Committee are not there to sort this out. If you put a blue bag in the area, could you please remove it.

5. Soil, grass and weeds have just been dumped in a pile in this area (not in any bag!). This has to stop. It is not a dumping area.

Every two weeks a committee member opens the gates at about 7.30am for the bin men to enter the site. The committee member checks the weight of each bag and regularly redistributes waste from bags that are too heavy amongst the other bags. This is in order that the scheme works. We are now getting anything and everything dumped here. Please, if you have done this stop it.

**If the scheme continues to be abused, we will have to stop it.**

# BOB'S JOBS

What needs doing, and when...

## APRIL

Start planting out potatoes, but if frost is forecast cover them.



Plant summer Cabbage and Cauliflower.

Sow Carrots, Peas, Beetroot, Lettuce and Sprout seeds.



Plant Sweet Peas and Gladioli (in case Dame Edna visits).

## MAY

Sow Runner Beans, French Beans, Courgette, Marrow and Squash, and continue with Carrot, Beetroot, Lettuce and Radish sowing.



Sow Sweet Corn and Winter Greens.

Plant Dahlias.

## JUNE

Plant out Winter Greens, Runner and French Beans, Courgettes, Marrows, Sweetcorn and Squashes.

Plant flowers for cutting: Aster, Zinnia and Rudbeckia.



Keep your hoe moving to beat those pesky weeds!

**Bob Marsh**