



## ALLOTMENTS NEWS

As autumn approaches most plotters have cleared their plots ready for the winter – good preparation now will ensure good crops next year. We have a good and plentiful supply of horse manure, and sometimes chicken manure. Yields have been variable – we have reports of totally ruined potato crops due to flooding, and bumper crops due to good rainfall – you never know what you are going to get at Tatsfield!

The compost site has now closed for the winter, although work will continue, erecting more bins, tidying the site, encouraging the screen hedge. We will notify you in good time when we open again next year. Plans are being made to install a French drain to take the surface water away from the area near the White House. This involves hiring a digger to make a trench which will then be filled with flints recycled from the site. We hope this will solve some of the drainage problems some have encountered.

Tatsfield in Bloom and the Horticultural Society have been given a container to store their materials and equipment; the intention is to locate it at the far end of the allotment site as the Borough Road site is to be vacated soon. The current path will be extended by a few metres to allow this to be as near the edge of the site as possible – every bit of space is valuable for growing purposes.

We have been verbally given the green light for a grant from Surrey County Council to install electricity onto the site. This will make a huge difference, enabling electrical machinery to be used, lighting in the winter months and dark evenings, ambient security lighting – and most important of all – tea making facilities!

Finally, on Sunday 7 October we held our annual BBQ. Not so well attended as last year when enthusiasm was running high - but a few die-hards attended and a good time was had by all. We managed to get fabulous weather again – despite cold and rain in the days before, and after – the gods are certainly shining down on Tatsfield allotments!

Further social functions are planned for the spring. Please keep looking and checking – we rely on support from all plot holders to make these occasions viable and enjoyable for all.

**Liz Armitage**

### GOOD AT BEES?

Can you tell the difference between a Bumble-bee and a Honey bee? Read Nigel Shaw's Nature Notes on pages 64-65 to find out.