

## 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014

As I have said before Monday is compost day – so I will recap on what I do before you get to the exciting bit of having a video this week!!

All the kitchen and plot waste is chopped up then mixed with the other ingredients. The bin is then filled up, shredded newspaper added and watered. Carpet is put back on top, lid put on and the date. The date is important as I know a month from the date the compost will be ready.



I also have started a new bin. First in is straw on the bottom, then the rest of my chopped compost, paper and then watered. I then use 2 sizes of carpet – the large one is used first because it's wider at the bottom of the bin!!.





All this hard composting work is paying off though. I now have a pet rotifer – no it`s not a German dog. A rotifer is classed as a wheel animal and contributes to the decomposition of soil organic matter. Gareth Hopcroft is director / owner of activate biological/ organic products and has tested hundreds of compost / compost tea samples .Mine is the first to have had rotifers in it - he was over the moon and so am I that I have a new pet!! So the compost work is paying off.

To see the pet rotifer use this link to the video.

[http://youtu.be/q\\_KDYEjZII4](http://youtu.be/q_KDYEjZII4)



The first of my talks for this year (A Year on the Plot) was last Tuesday at Streetly Horticultural Society in Sutton Coldfield. So far I have 26 talks booked up for 2014 and one rang me up for 2015!



I'm also still keeping an eye on the Caslon Primary School Gardening Club. One of the water butts was tilting the wrong way so remedial work was called for. The water butt was wedged up and the topped back up – as it was a bit muddy underfoot for the kids.



I also was up at the Abbey Road Allotments and got 3 bags of woodchips which will come in handy – I have the contact for the woodchip so they can't really moan me having some!



So that's all for this week – don't have nightmares watching my pet on the video!!!!!!