

Autumn 2023



# Allotments Newsletter

## News in Brief

### ALLOTMENTS HOLDERS' AGM

The 2023 Allotment Holders' AGM will be held on Tuesday 31st October at 7pm. This will be your opportunity to meet the Town Council's Allotments sub-committee and pose questions, meet other tenants, and get to know the members and staff. Dates and times will be forwarded to everyone in due course.

### RENT RISES

At an Extraordinary Meeting held on 16th August, the sub-committee voted to increase all rents by 10% for the 2023/2024 year. This means that rents are still well below that of other neighbouring local authority areas.

### ALLOTMENTS SHELTER

Following the installation of a shelter on the Re-established site in March, Town Force have returned over the summer to fit a new bench for the benefit of the tenants.

### SECURITY FENCING

New fencing was installed in the north-west boundary of the allotments in April, filling up an area of sub-standard fencing and making the site much more secure.

## Your New Allotments & In Bloom Officer

Hello everyone!

My name is Martin Greenfield and I have the honour of being appointed as the new Allotments & In Bloom Officer at Bognor Regis Town Council. I would like to take the opportunity to wish my predecessor, Steve Davis, all the best for the future.

I have been working part-time at the Town Council since April as the Event Admin & Support Officer, and I will now be splitting my time between that role and allotments/In Bloom. I look forward to getting to meet you all in the coming months!

Since I am so new to the role, having started on 6th September, this will only be a short newsletter while I continue to get up to speed with all the activity going on at the allotments. I hope the next newsletter (Winter 2023/2024) will be more detailed.

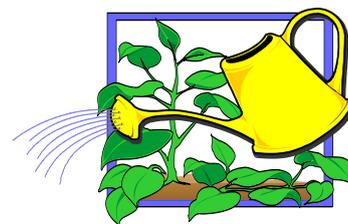
In the meantime, if you wish to get in touch about anything allotments-related, please find my contact details at the end of this newsletter.

### Bognor Regis Allotments & In Bloom Awards 2023

In July, members of the Town Council's Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee voted to combine this year's Allotments Awards and In Bloom Awards into one single event, to take place in October.

This will be my first time organising and attending this event, but I very much look forward to it. A big thank you to everyone who undertook the judging for the annual Allotments Awards, and to those winners from last year in returning their trophies ready to be engraved for this year's winners.

Due to budget and other constraints, the Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee decided that only the Allotments Awards winners (and guest) would be invited to the evening. I would therefore be very interested to hear any feedback from both those attending the event and those not attending, in order to relay your thoughts on these arrangements to the Committee.



With best wishes,

Martin Greenfield, Allotments & In Bloom Officer

## Safety Tips

I am aware that there have been a number of issues at the allotments over the past few months in terms of unauthorized entry into the allotments, and damage being caused. New locks have recently been installed by our Town Force team (codes remain the same), so hopefully this will help to stop the problem. However, please let me (or the Town Council outside of my working hours of Wednesday and Thursday) know immediately there are any further cases of damage, graffiti, theft or unauthorized access.

This is a good place to remind everyone of a few safety tips to help reduce the likelihood of such events occurring:

- ◆ Tools should not be left out or lying around, but should be taken home with you or otherwise locked away securely in your shed.
- ◆ Please do not share the entry codes with any unauthorized person (including friends or family), nor to children. They are for your use only.
- ◆ Be sure to scramble the combination padlock codes after every use. I know it's a pain, but the easiest means of unauthorized access is to find the correct code already on the lock!
- ◆ Ensure that all gates are securely shut and locked after using them. Do not remove the padlocks.
- ◆ Report damaged fences, gates, locks, etc. asap. I will be conducting fortnightly inspections (and additional ones after storms or strong winds), but if you spot something, please still report it to me.
- ◆ In the event of an incident or ongoing crime, immediately report to the police on 101 (or 999 if it is serious or still happening). Don't put yourself or others in danger. Graffiti is criminal damage, so please do report it to the police, as well as to me (preferably once you have a crime number).

## Tenant Representatives 2023-2024

Your Tenant Representatives are your first point of contact if you have any concerns or questions.

**Re-established site:**

Louise Russell (Plot 104)

**Original site:**

Marcus Bicknell (Plot 8) and Colin Penfold (Plot 7a)

We currently have a vacancy for a second Tenant Representative for the Re-established site. If you are interested in taking on this role, please let me know.

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