

Winter 2024



News in Brief

WINTER CLOSING

The Town Council offices will be closed between 24th December and 2nd January. In case of any issues during this time, the Tenant Reps should be your first point of contact.

STORM DAMAGE

Surprisingly little damage was caused by the storms at the beginning of December, although some greenhouses suffered broken glass and a few poly tunnels collapsed in the winds.

If your plot was impacted by the storm, please ensure that any damage is repaired and broken glass removed from the site.



WATER

Water supplies have been turned off at the allotments for the winter. It will be turned on again in the spring, once the threat of freezing conditions has passed.

'Blooming Marvelous'

This was the headline in the Bognor Regis *Observer* reporting on the Allotments & In Bloom Awards Evening held on 17th October.

Once again, the evening combined the two awards into a single event to celebrate the gardening prowess of the Town.

The children's categories were well represented with staff, parents and pupils from South Bersted C of E Primary School, Bersted Green Primary School and Bishop Tufnell CE (Aided) Primary School all receiving a warm welcome from Bognor Regis Mayor, Cllr. Miss. Claire Needs and Town Crier, Mrs. Jane Smith.

Among other guests were Peter Baldwin of Peter Baldwin & Co Accountants, and Sandra Daniells of Bognor Regis Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who were among several sponsors of the event.

Cllr. Phil Woodall, Chair of Bognor Regis in Bloom and the Allotments Sub-Committee at Bognor Regis Town Council, also paid homage to several other gardens and businesses around the Town who had not entered the competition this year, and made a call for more gardeners and businesses to enter the 2025 competition.

A huge thank you to the sponsors of Bognor Regis in Bloom, In Bloom Working Group, our allotments tenants and to everyone who took the time to enter this year's competitions.



With best wishes,

Martin Greenfield, Allotments & In Bloom Officer

Funding for Allotments Improvements

In October, the Town Council submitted a bid to Arun District Council's Safer Arun Partnership for a share of the funding on offer to town and parish councils in the district. To combat the persistent fly-tipping that happens at the Town Council's allotments, our proposal was to install fencing of a sufficient height that would make it more difficult for the culprits to discard of their rubbish. Not only is fly-tipping illegal but it costs the Town Council time and money clearing it up and disposing of it properly. It cost taxpayers £189 + VAT to remove just a single load of fly-tipping in May this year!

In accepting the Town Council's bid and awarding us £1,300 for the project, Chair of the Safer Arun Partnership, Cllr. Alan Butcher said: "The Safer Arun Partnership is delighted to be able to support BRTC in improving the security of this allotment site. Providing this funding aligns with the partnership's aims of reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour and improving feelings of public safety."

Our sincere thanks go to the Safer Arun Partnership for providing us with this funding in our fight to reduce anti-social behaviour in our Town.

It is anticipated that the fencing will be erected in January to enclose the area around the electricity sub-station—one of the worst sites for illegal waste disposal—and providing added security for tenants of both our allotments sites.

News from the AGM and Sub-Committee

You will all have received the minutes of the Allotment Holders AGM, held on 24th October, by now. Although only lasting half-an-hour, a couple of significant matters were referred to the Allotments Sub-Committee that followed. One of these was about changes to the Allotments Awards in 2025, which will be covered under a separate article, and the other was about weedkillers and pesticides.

Weedkillers have always been banned for use at the allotments, but pesticides were permitted up until June 2016. Those present at the AGM put in a request that these policies be reviewed by the Sub-Committee, which in turn has instructed the Allotments Officer to conduct research into the matter, and to report back at the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee, at their meeting on 4th November, also discussed the following:

=> All new tenants will now be subject to a three month probationary period to help reduce the incidence of plots being left in a poor state after being re-let. New tenants who do not maintain their plot would be asked to vacate after three months and the plot re-let to the next person on the waiting list. It is hoped that with the changes to the rental year from April 2025, that plots being left vacant will become less of an issue.

=> From 2025, there will now be two formal Health & Safety Inspections of the allotments each year, with inspections taking place in May and November. At present, there has only been a single annual inspection of this type, and the aim of increasing the number of inspections is to allow for a timely follow-up to any issues identified in the previous inspection. These will be in addition to the usual site visits by the Officer throughout the year.

=> To help manage the ever-increasing waiting list, new authority has been delegated to the Allotments Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee, to split larger plots on the Gravits Lane site into smaller plots as and when they become vacant. This should help reduce the waiting list, but also speed up re-lets of vacant plots. Smaller plots are more desirable among new tenants than the larger ones, which can be overwhelming and costly to maintain for beginners.

Allotments Accounts

The allotments accounts were first published in the Winter 2023 Newsletter, so it is fitting that the half-year accounts are presented to you, our Tenants, once again in this edition.

This information is readily available on the Town Council's website (Check out the **Financial Information** section), but are presented here in an easy-to-read format for ease of access.

The last financial year, which ran from April 2023 to March 2024, the total income from the Allotments was £2,907, of which rents accounted for £2,517 (£217 **increase**).

Total expenditure for 2023-2024 was £4,852, which included:

- £733 for water rates
- £213 for the 2023 Allotments Competition expenses
- £3,177 for site and equipment maintenance

For the current financial year to date, running April 2024 to March 2025, accounts are available up to the end of October. So far, rental income is £2,505 and expenditure is £3,897.



Congratulations to Award Winners

Best Kept Plot on the Original Site:

3 rd Prize	Plot 10	Mr. Alistair Campbell
2 nd Prize	Plot 28	Mr. Doug Green
1 st Prize	Plot 25	Ms. Sintija Straube

The Roy Gristwood Shield - Best Use of Allotment:

3 rd Prize	Plot 58	Ms. Szende Tarszi
2 nd Prize	Plot 8	Mr. Marcus Bicknell
1 st Prize	Plot 15A	Mr. Edward Hallett

Sharon Stubbings Award for the Best Kept Plot on the Re-Established Site:

3 rd Prize	Plot 32	Mrs. Teresa Griffiths
2 nd Prize	Plot 57	Ms. Szende Tarszi
1 st Prize	Plot 67	Mrs. Petra Teale



Representative's Award for Most Improved Plot Award Original Site:

3 rd Prize	Plot 21A	Mr. Colin Willson
2 nd Prize	Plot 11B	Mr. Patryk Krukowski
1 st Prize	Plot 14B	Mr. Paul Goodchild

Representative's Award for Most Improved Plot Award Re-established Site:

3 rd Prize	Plot 76	Ms. Kinga Arciszewska
2 nd Prize	Plot 101	Ms. Regina Vilimaitiene
1 st Prize	Plot 47	Mr. Zdzislaw Parada

Changes to the 2025 Awards

Having experimented with combining the Allotments and In Bloom Awards into a single event over the past two years, Tenants at the AGM in October voted to request that the Allotments Awards are once again separated, to take place at the AGM. This request was put to the Allotments Sub-Committee, who voted in favour of this.

Tenant Representatives 2024-2025

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

Re-established site:

Louise Russell (Plots 104-108)
Phil Fortin (Plots 36-38)

Original site:

Colin Penfold (Plots 7A/7B)
Paul Goodchild (Plots 14B/19A)

*Town Hall
Clarence Road
Bognor Regis
PO21 1LD*

Telephone: 01243 825535

Email: allotments&inbloom@bognorregis.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.bognorregis.gov.uk>

