

Winter 2023



Allotments Newsletter

News in Brief

LOST & FOUND

A pair of glasses were found in the shelter on the Re-Established site during an inspection in October. They are now held safely at the Town Hall, should the owner wish to be reunited with them!

WATER

With the Town Council's Weather Station recording overnight temperatures close to freezing, the decision was taken to turn the water off at the Allotments on 13th November. Town Force plan to replace all the taps over the Winter season, ready for the water to be turned on again in the Spring, once the risk of freezing conditions has passed.

TENANT REP VACANCIES

Vacancies have arisen for three Tenant Reps across both Sites. We are seeking nominations for two Reps for the Original Site (Plots 1-30B) and one for the Re-Established Site (Plots 31-108). If you are interested, please get in touch! The deadline for nominations is 31st January 2024.

Allotment Awards a 'Smash Hit'!

So said the *Bognor Regis Observer*, when reporting on the first combined Bognor Regis in Bloom and Allotments Awards, held on 12th October 2023.

In a shake up to the usual festivities, it was great to see so many entrants, sponsors and guests from both the In Bloom competition and the Town Council-owned Allotments join with members of the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group and Allotments Sub-Committee in celebrating the wonderful achievements of our local residential and business gardeners.

We had a fantastic turn out from this year's entrants, which included children and staff from South Bersted C.E. School, Bersted Green Primary School, and The Edward Bryant School, who all received a warm welcome from Cllr. John Barrett and Town Crier, Mrs. Jane Smith, and our hosts for the evening: Bognor Regis In Bloom Chair Margaret Huntingdon, and Allotments Sub-Committee Chair Cllr. Phil Woodall.

Also in attendance were the Chair of Arun District Council, Cllr. Alison Cooper, representatives from the sponsors, and members of Bognor Regis Town Council.

Margaret Huntingdon, Chair of the In Bloom Working Group gave the closing speech that included a call for more volunteers to join the Group. Anyone interested should email the Bognor Regis in Bloom Committee Clerk: allotments&inbloom@bognorregis.gov.uk or call: 01243 867744.

A huge thank you to our category sponsors, to the In Bloom Working Group, our Allotments Tenants and to everyone who took the time to enter the competitions.

This year's winners can be found at the end of this newsletter.



With best wishes,

Martin Greenfield, Allotments & In Bloom Officer

Allotment Accounts

It has been suggested at the previous couple of AGMs that the Town Council's Allotments are being run for profit, and requests made for the Allotments accounts to be published.

This information is already publicly available on the Town Council's website, but for ease of access, a summary of the accounts is detailed below.

For the last financial year, which ran from April 2022 to March 2023, the total income from the Allotments was £2,798, of which rents accounted for £2,300. The remaining income was £308 from forfeited Holding Deposits, and £190 from Sponsorship of the Allotments Awards. Total expenditure for 2022-2023 was £6,771. This included:

- £720 for water rates
- £166 for waste disposal
- £222 for the 2022 Allotments Awards
- £135 for new locks, equipment, etc.
- £4,043 for maintenance
- £1,485 in miscellaneous costs



For the current financial year, running from April 2023 to March 2024, accounts are currently available up to the end of October. The maximum possible rental income from all plots is £2,592, of which £2,442 has actually been received. The only other income so far recorded is £206 from Sponsorship of the Allotments Awards.

The total expenditure for the seven months to the end of October 2023 was £2,226. With a further five months of the financial year to run, and following the trend of all previous years, the expenses will continue to be substantially higher than income by March 2024.

A summary breakdown of previous years' accounts is shown below:



2022-2023	Income: £2,798	Expenditure: £6,771
2021-2022	Income: £2,686	Expenditure: £4,454
2020-2021	Income: £2,914	Expenditure: £4,159
2019-2020	Income: £2,166	Expenditure: £4,650
2018-2019	Income: £2,477	Expenditure: £3,702

Bognor Regis Town Council currently only charges Tenants for rent. All expenses are incurred by the Town Council and are not passed onto the Tenants. This includes water, waste, maintenance, repair and security, in addition to any one-off projects as requested by the Tenants or the Allotments Sub-Committee. Tenant rents contribute towards these expenses, but in order to turn a profit the Town Council would have to more than double rental amounts and/or bill all the expenses to Tenants as surcharges. There are currently no plans to do this.

[Cont. overleaf]

Allotment Accounts (Continued)

A comparison of Bognor Regis Town Council's Allotments rental charges and Allotments run by other authorities in the area was presented at the August Extraordinary Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting, and was published at the time. This comparison is repeated below:

Council	2022 charge p.m ² .	2023 charge p.m ² .	Increase	Comments
Adur & Worthing small plot	44p	48p	9%	30% discount for 65+
Adur & Worthing large plot	48p	53p	10%	30% discount for 65+
Chichester	40p	43.5p	9%	
Crawley	48p	50p	4%	50% discount for 65+
Littlehampton	31p	34p	10%	
Bognor Regis	28p	31p	10%	

The Town Council is currently charging substantially below that of other West Sussex authorities, and the rent increase for 2023-24 is in line with that of other local councils.

Matters from the AGM

A number of matters were raised at the Tenant Holders' AGM, held on 31st October. Among them were the following:

- ⇒ A proposal that Tenants of unkempt plots have their tenancy automatically terminated at the end of the rental year, except in exceptional circumstances. This would need to be a matter for discussion at a future Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting.
- ⇒ A request that a skip is provided once or twice a year for Tenants to have a good clear out of the two Sites. This, too, will need to be discussed at a future Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting.
- ⇒ A request for the communal compost site on the former Plot 4A on the Original Site to be cleared of rubbish build-up. This request has been passed on to the Town Force Manager.
- ⇒ Concerns were raised over the number of unauthorised persons accessing the Allotments. A polite reminder is given to urge all Tenants to scramble the lock codes after every use and to never pass the codes onto anyone else, including friends or family members.
- ⇒ Cars blocking the central gate to the Original Site. West Sussex County Council Highways have been contacted regarding this. There would be a cost to have the road lines re-painted, but there would still be no legal enforcement for anyone parking across the entrance.
- ⇒ New vehicular access to the Original Site to allow for bulk compost deliveries. This proposal has previously been refused by Arun District Council. The Town Council is pursuing the reasoning for this, and to seek an appropriate solution.



Congratulations to our Winners!

Best Kept Plot on the Original Site:

1 st Prize	Plot 12C/12D	Mr. Rui Pereira
2 nd Prize	Plot 11a	Mr. Peter Carpenter
3 rd Prize	Plot 25	Ms. Sintija Straube and Ms. Gunta Skabarde

The Roy Gristwood Shield – Best Use of Allotment

1 st Prize	Plot 11A	Mr. Peter Carpenter
2 nd Prize	Plot 1	Mr. Peter and Mrs. Olive Ledword
3 rd Prize	Plot 33	Ms. Teresa Griffiths

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

1 st Prize	Plot 97	Mr. Ken Austin
2 nd Prize	Plot 55	Mr. Brian & Mrs. Moira Bentley
3 rd Prize	Plot 103	Mr. Ken Austin

Most Improved Plot Awards Original Site

1 st Prize	Plot 16B	Ms. Svetlana Voitekaite
2 nd Prize	Plot 27A	Mr. Pawel Bryla
3 rd Prize	Plot 19A	Mr. Paul Goodchild

Most Improved Plot Awards Re-established Site

1 st Prize	Plot 87	Ms. Sharon Brockwell
2 nd Prize	Plot 55	Mr. Brian & Mrs. Moira Bentley
3 rd Prize	Plot 85	Mr. Geoff Kellard

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)

1 x vacancy

Original site:

Colin Penfold (temporary) (Plot 7a)

2 x vacancies



*Town Hall
Clarence Road
Bognor Regis
PO21 1LD*

Telephone: 01243 867744

Email: allotments&inbloom@bognorregis.gov.uk

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