

Issue 12

October 2013



CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

A Message from the Town Clerk

I would not normally write this introduction, but I want to formally introduce Keith Blow as the new Property Manager. Keith took over from Guy Clifford who retired in July this year. Guy had served the City Council in the role of Property Manager for 14 years and during that time saw through many changes in the management of allotments, about which I publicly express my thanks. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Guy a long and happy retirement.

Keith Blow has worked in various roles in the construction industry both the private and public sectors and has also run his own Company. Keith's last role was managing the property portfolio of Solent University, Southampton. He is now getting to grips with the various challenges associated with allotments and looks forward to meeting you all.

Rodney Duggua

Florence Road Water Supply

Problems about the Florence Road site water leak has hopefully been resolved with the laying of a new water main into the site and the provision of a new stand pipe for use by the allotment plot holders.

Best Kept Plots

Shields and certificates were presented by the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor Alan Chaplin, to allotment holders judged to have the Best Kept and Most Improved Allotment Plots. Presentations were made at the Chichester and District Gardens and Allotment Association Annual Show at the Newell Centre on 17 August 2013. Winners this year were all from the St Paul's allotment site:

Mr M Trott
5 rod plot

Mr K Bickmore
10 rod plot

Mr E Schembri
Most Improved



A Reminder...

The maintenance of pathways between allotments is the responsibility of plot holders as set out in the tenancy agreement. This is an area which can often be neglected and give rise to complaints. So please ensure that all boundaries to your allotment plot are kept tidy. This also helps to keep boundaries clearly defined and prevents the spread of unwanted weed seeds.

A Note from the Property Manager

Welcome to this issue of the Chichester City Council Allotment Newsletter. Let's hope that this year has been a better year for growers and that production is significantly up.

You are receiving this Newsletter with your annual invoice and we encourage you to pay this promptly avoiding the need to send out reminders.

We are being encouraged to change the old measurement of allotment plots from 'Rods' to 'Square Metres'. We will keep you posted on this matter.

The allotment waiting list has reduced in size but is still long, with some sites having a longer list than others. If you are looking to give up your allotment do please let me know as quickly as possible so that others can be offered the opportunity to take up an allotment plot.

The Council is always looking to improve services and with that in mind, we want to introduce an Allotment Strategy. It will cover a wide range of aspects dealing with allotments such as allocation, standards of upkeep, and how we go about respecting your wishes and aspirations. It will also clear up any grey areas of uncertainty. Hopefully this strategy can be introduced over the next few months ready for the new growing period. Your views are important in this process so please contact me with your thoughts.

If any allotment tenant would like to meet up and discuss the proposed Allotment Strategy then perhaps an open meeting would be advantageous with representatives from each allotment site attending.

Keith Blow



Padlocks

Complaints were received about keys not working in some of the main entrance gate padlocks and these were changed for new ones at the St. James Road and Roman Amphitheatre sites. However, it now appears that 'older' or original keys do not work in the new padlocks. If

you have encountered this problem please call in to the City Council Offices in North Street with your old key and we will exchange it for a new one. We apologise for the inconvenience this may have caused.



Dogs

Complaints are still being received from allotment holders about dogs being brought onto allotment sites particularly when dogs are roaming free and dog fouling. There is no reason for dogs to be brought on to allotment plots so please leave your dog at home while visiting your allotment plot. Remember the growing of food produce with dog fouling present is a significant health risk.



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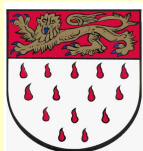
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Rainwater Harvesting

There are several ways of doing this with a number of good offers on the internet for water butts and harvesting equipment. However, a word of warning! Make sure that the water butt that is ordered is a correct one and not a general 'white' or similar storage container. Some of these have been used for other uses and can contain contaminated material or be a contaminant in their own right. The moral of this story is to be cautious about what you buy!