



## A Message from the Property Manager

Welcome to the latest issue of the Allotment Newsletter. Firstly, please accept my apologies that your rent invoice is late. This is due to the implementation of a new allotment management software package, which has taken a significant time to establish. All the data from our existing Excel based tenant records had to be transferred to the new web-based system and then checked and amended as necessary to ensure accuracy. Please bear with us if there are any teething problems. If you notice any errors on your invoice please contact us immediately and we'll investigate and correct as necessary.

On a related matter, in order to improve communication, as well as reduce expenditure on postage, stationery and ink, we would like to compile an email distribution list for each allotment site. To assist with this please email me at [p.roberts@chichestercity.gov.uk](mailto:p.roberts@chichestercity.gov.uk) stating your name, allotment site and plot number (if known) and preferred email address and telephone number. If you wish to include a comment on any allotment related issue please feel free. Your views are always welcomed and appreciated.

Thank you for your patience. Warm regards to you all.

**Peter Roberts**

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## Maureen Primrose

Many of you have dealt with the Property Manager's Assistant Maureen Primrose in the last year. Maureen retired in August after many years of faithful and efficient service. Our thanks and best wishes go to Maureen. Her dedication and diligence was hugely appreciated and is being greatly missed.

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## Best Kept Plots

The awards for the plots judged to have been 'best kept' or 'most improved' during 2015 were presented by the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor Peter Budge at the Chichester and District Garden and Allotments Association Annual Show held on 15<sup>th</sup> August at the Newell Centre. The winners were :

Mrs W Best	10 Rods	Florence Road Allotment
Mr & Mrs Willer	5 Rods	St Pauls Allotment
Mr Hulbert	Most Improved	Whyke Road Allotment

Miss Hindle of Roman Amphitheatre and Mrs Baldwin of Kingsham Avenue also received 'Highly Commended' certificates for their plots.

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## Bonfires

A number of complaints have been received particularly from the St Pauls and St James allotment site regarding nuisance bonfires. **Bonfires are discouraged as the smoke can be considered a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It is illegal (and dangerous) for smoke from a bonfire to drift across a public highway.** We would encourage you not to light bonfires but rather to compost green waste, or take large amounts to the amenity tip. However, a well supervised bonfire is allowed in the colder seasons on days with little wind. Please be considerate of neighbouring houses that may have washing on lines and windows open.

## Allotment Working Group

An Allotment Working Group has been formed to consider the City Council's draft Allotment Strategy and to make recommendations to the City Council's Property Sub-Committee. The tenancy agreement, site rules, rents, management structure and procedures are all being reviewed in order to identify areas where improvement can be made and with the aim of protecting and promoting allotment gardening as a healthy and productive community activity.

## We Want You!



We are seeking to appoint volunteer stewards from among the allotment tenants to assist the Property Manager with the day to day management of the sites. This would be a voluntary role and would involve liaising between the Property Manager and the tenants, assisting with routine maintenance such as grass cutting of the main paths, etc, and offering advice and mentoring to fellow allotment holders, especially novice and less experienced tenants. If you are interested in taking on this role, for which training will be given, please contact Peter Roberts on 01243 788502 or by email at [p.roberts@chichestercity.gov.uk](mailto:p.roberts@chichestercity.gov.uk).

## St Pauls Allotment Fallen Oak Tree

During the winter 2013 storms a large mature oak was uprooted on the St Pauls allotment site. Due to the sheer size and weight of this tree it was a challenging project to remove it. A plan was developed to use the timber to create a sculpture to form the centrepiece of the planned Garden of Reflection and Reconciliation in Litten Gardens, which will be the City Council's 1914-1918 Centenary Commemoration project. The tree was lifted by means of a large tele-handler and HIAB truck and loaded onto a flat bed lumber transporter and taken to the Woodland Centre in West Hoathley where it will be chainsaw carved into the agreed design. The aim is to complete the sculpture and have it in place in Litten Gardens before November 2018.



## Water Harvesting

Please help to reduce water consumption. During the spring it can be easy for allotment holders to use large quantities of water on their plants and vegetables and that's when a water butt can come in handy for storing rain water for the garden.

**The water supply will be turned off by Sunday 22 November 2015.**

## CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL



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