

Issue 17

March 2018



CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

A Message from Peter Roberts, Property Manager

Welcome to the latest issue of the Allotment Newsletter.

Chichester City Council have recently appointed Stephen Holman as Property Maintenance Officer and he will assist Gareth in the many tasks that we undertake in the City as well as the allotments.

Putting a face to the name :



Gareth Bowen
Senior Property
Maintenance Officer



Stephen Holman
Property Maintenance
Officer



Claire Adams
Front of House Supervisor
Allotment Admin



CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

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Property Manager

Sr Property Maintenance Officer

Property Maintenance Officer

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What is an allotment?

Allotments are a great hobby They're good value and you get healthy exercise without having to pay for a gym or run around in circles and you get to eat healthy fruit and vegetables without all those pesticide residues.

Communication

If personal circumstances are limiting ability to upkeep the plot, please notify the City Council at an early stage. If we are aware then we can discuss temporary arrangements before the plot becomes out of control.



Data protection

New guidelines come into affect in May 2018 which will affect everyone. Please read the enclosed information and respond.



Plot Inspections

The next formal plot inspections will be carried out week commencing 2nd April 2018.



Available Plots

The allotment site at St James Road currently has a number of vacant plots. If you know of any neighbours or other residents in Chichester who would like an allotment, please spread the word.

The application form is available on our website.
www.chichestercity.gov.uk/services/allotments

Gate Locking

A reminder please that it is everyone's responsibility to assist with site security and that gates must be locked at all times.



Plant through black plastic

Planting through holes or slits in black plastic sheeting reduces time spent on weeding between plants. A water reservoir will

continue all summer under the plastic which will enable plants to develop longer roots.

Bumblebees and Pollination

To conserve and restore our remaining bumblebee and insect populations to their past abundance, we all need to think about conservation.

It has been estimated that a Buff-tailed Bumblebee queen may have to visit as many as 6,000 flowers per day to collect enough nectar to maintain the heat needed to brood her eggs when she first starts her nest.



Slow-worms

Slow-worms are a type of lizard and are a protected species. There are a number of slow-worm nests on our allotment sites, and they will generally be found hibernating between

October and March in compost heaps or hedge rows. So if you did intend to move a nest, wait until after hibernation. When they do emerge at dusk or after rain they will be on the hunt for slugs, snails and other insects.

Jobs to do

March

- Plant early potatoes then at intervals with second earlies
- Sow the seed of Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, broccoli, onions and leeks
- Plant out onion sets, shallots and garlic
- Complete any unfinished digging and winter pruning

April

- Continue with planting out the seed potatoes
- Sow beetroot, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, spinach, spring onions, kohlrabi, radish, turnips, early peas, Swiss chard
- Put up the runner bean poles
- Prepare seed beds for outdoor sowing of main crop vegetables next month
- Check over top and soft fruit for the first broods of aphids and take appropriate action; spray the plant with soapy water (diluted washing up liquid)
- Protect any early strawberries with netting

A reminder on Tenancy Rules

Tenants are reminded that the allotment land belongs to the City Council and therefore tenants must not alter the size or shape of the plot or transfer the plot or part of the plot to any other person without the written consent of the City Council. It is not permissible for tenants to erect structures on common areas, use common areas for storage or reduce the width of paths between plots.



Site Stewards

Volunteer allotment site stewards are still needed at the Whyke Road, Durnford Close, St James and St Pauls sites.

Volunteer site stewards liaise between tenants and the City Council, and are a useful link to improve communication

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer then please make contact with the Property Manager.