

2007 ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER

Best Kept Allotment Awards

The allotments are inspected in late July of each year in order to utilise the growing season and provide the best opportunity for produce. Presentation of the Winners' trophies and certificates for the runners-up for each allotment site will be presented during September of each year. The winners of the Best Kept Allotments for 2006 were as follows:

Hitchen Lane – Mr David P. Sexton (Plot H14) Winner
Mr Stephen Altoft (Plot H08) **Runner Up**
Mr Graham Freestone (H21A) **Highly Commended**
Mrs Sally Barton (H11) **Commended**

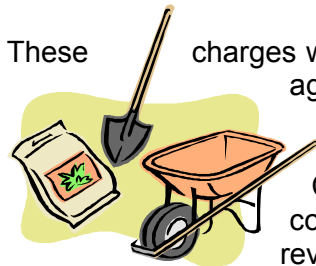
Whitstone Rd – Mr Michael Gould (W12) Winner
Mr & Mrs Holmes (W32) **Runner Up**
Mr Clive Gibbons (W29) **Highly Commended**
Mrs Caroline Thorner (W28B) **Commended**
Mr Mumford (W31B) **Commended**



Many congratulations to all the winners!

Rent Charges from February 2007

As from 1 February rent charges are as follows; **£7 per annum for a small plot** (below 500 sq ft), **£12.50 per annum for a medium plot** (above 500 sq ft but under 1100 sq ft), and **£25 per annum for a large plot** (above 1100 sq ft). Please also note that there will be **no discount for the renting of multiple plots.**



These charges will remain in force until at least February 2010 and we are pleased to once again confirm that our charges remain one of the lowest within the district. However we do request your ongoing support in providing adequate maintenance throughout the year to your plot. Cost applicable to re-cultivation of a derelict plot to enable re-letting is quite considerable and may well have implications as to charges at future rent reviews.

Management of Allotments

For day-to-day issues relating to your allotment you can either contact your Site Representative, or the Town Clerk. We intend to continue to manage the allotments, firstly by the site representative keeping an eye on matters on a day-to-day basis, and the Council's Properties Portfolio Leader, along with the Clerk, who will carry out inspections on a bi-monthly basis.



The concept is to ensure that allotment plots remain cultivated at all times and do not get overgrown, as has happened in the past. Following these inspections any plots not deemed to be at an acceptable standard will receive reminder letters and, if all else fails, then their tenancy will be terminated and the plot re-let from our waiting list. The majority of our plots remain in satisfactory condition, producing excellent vegetables, fruit and flowers and we thank you for your continued support.

Should you wish to split your plot, if you are finding it unmanageable, please contact us and we will be only too willing to consider this.

Due to retirement of the current Site Representative for the Hitchen Lane site, we would be grateful if you could contact us if you wish to take over this role. Our thanks go to Sally Barton who has held this position for some years.

General Maintenance



The existing contract with Adrian Crozier will continue for a further year and, included within the contract, he is now isolating the water supplies to the water troughs in November and reinstating the supplies in March of each year. Adrian also provides maintenance to the paths bordering each plot, cutting the grass throughout the year - the cost of which is incorporated within the plot rental at £1 per year per plot. We must stress, however, that it is the responsibility of allotment tenants to maintain the path edges and we would also request that stones and debris are not left on the paths as this interferes with mowing.

Bonfires

Please note that the lighting of bonfires is strictly forbidden at all times (see Clause 5(c) of your tenancy agreement). However we are willing to consider proposals, perhaps for a bi-annual communal bonfire at the start/end of the growing seasons.

Allotments Association

A suggestion has been put forward that tenants could form an Allotments Association. This could have considerable advantages such as the possible provision of grant aid and reduction in cost of seeds etc. We would, of course, continue to provide support, general administration and maintenance of the plots. We would welcome any feedback regarding this suggestion.



Shepton Town Website

Our website, www.sheptonmallet.org, enables members of the public to have the latest information on matters relating to the town and enable them to view all Minutes and Agendas of Town Council meetings. If you have any information/images which you feel could be of interest please feel free to email us via the website.

Future Improvement Projects

In 2007 we hope to provide noticeboards to each site to aid communication between the Town Council and tenants and also hope to provide signage with clear identification of each plot.

Hitchen Lane - We will continue to strive to obtain formal Right of Way from Hitchen Lane down to the access to our allotment site. This would ensure that tenants continue to be able to use this driveway and that we would be able to carry out further maintenance and upgrade to the surfacing.

We are also looking at repairing and reinstatement or replacement of stone-walling which had been damaged, bordering with the adjacent derelict land. We will also investigate possible expansion of the Hitchen Lane allotment site for people on our waiting list, on to the adjoining derelict land.



Whitstone Road – Following requests we will be providing a skip for the loading and removal of non-recyclable materials by any allotment holder. The skip should be loaded as neatly as possible to maximize this one off use.

The skip will be delivered to the site late on Friday 23 February and removed early Monday the 26 February 2006.

Would tenants using the car park at Whitstone Road allotment site please ensure that the gate is firmly locked behind you. Please note that the **new code** for this gate as from the 1 February 2007 will be **7777**.

We will be reviewing possible upgrade of fencing in certain areas of the Whitstone Road site, especially where it meets with the Millennium Way.

Waiting List

We currently have 19 prospective tenants on our waiting list and anyone wishing to apply for an allotment can be added to this list via our website or contact with this office; vacant allotments are then offered on a first-come first-served basis. We now have 78 allotment plots in total over our four sites of Hitchen Lane, Whitstone Road and two areas on the Allyn Saxon Estate.

Tenants Representatives

Whitstone Road site	Hitchen Lane Site
Adrian Crozier 14 Beech Way Evercreech BA4 6NZ Tel. No. 07944035557	To be agreed



Happy Gardening!
Shepton Mallet Town Council

Tenancy Agreement

May we take this opportunity of highlighting below several clauses within your existing Tenancy Agreement. Whilst the majority of allotment holders look after their plots, and abide by the conditions set within the Tenancy Agreement, we have had several incidents throughout the previous year whereby tenants have let their plots get overgrown and unfortunately we have had to terminate three tenancies throughout the year period. Also several bonfires have been lit, which have caused nuisance and complaints from adjoining properties.

3) (iv) The Council is entitled to compensation from the tenant for any deterioration in the land arising from the tenant's failure to keep it clean and in a good state of fertility.
4) The tenant shall reside within the Town of Shepton Mallet during the continuance of the tenancy.
5) (a) The Allotment Garden shall be kept in a clean, decent and good condition and properly cultivated; (b) The tenant shall cause no nuisance or annoyance to any tenant of any other part of the Allotments provided by the Town Council, or the occupiers of adjoining properties; (c) The setting and lighting of bonfires is strictly forbidden at all times. This Council encourages and agrees for areas of each plot to be set aside for the purpose of composting down all waste from the allotment plots. Any materials, which are unsuitable for compost are to be removed by the tenant from the site at their own cost. (g) The tenant shall maintain in decent order all fences and ditches bordering the Allotment Garden and shall keep trim and keep in decent order all hedges and paths forming any boundary of the Allotment Garden;
7) If the tenant shall have been in breach of any of the foregoing provisions of this Agreement for a period of one month or longer the Council may re-enter upon the Allotment Garden and the tenancy shall thereupon come to an end but without prejudice to any right of the Council to claim damages for any such breach or to recover any rent already due before the time of such re-entry but remaining unpaid.

REMITTANCE SLIP

I enclose cash/cheque (made payable to "Shepton Mallet Town Council") to the value of £_____ for the annual rent of my allotment plot No. _____

I have an email address, which I agree for the Town Council to use for further notifications, updates and letters.

My email address is.....@.....

Please return this completed remittance slip and your rent monies to:

Shepton Mallet Town Council
1 Park Road
Shepton Mallet
Somerset BA4 5BS

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