



Shipley
Town Council

Allotment Newsletter

Issue 6#
Spring 2023

Happy New Year!

As we eagerly look out for signs of Spring the Allotment Newsletter is back in its usual format, having taken the form of a simple email for expediency for the winter edition.



Beginning to poke through in the town centre are the bulbs the Town Council planted in the Autumn.

As well as bringing you up to date with all things relevant to Shipley's allotments this edition also has a special feature on your Site Representatives.

Allotment Rents

You will recall that when the invoices are issued in April for your 2023/24 plot rent it will have increased to £48.00 for a full price plot, from £43.06.

It was agreed at the November Allotments & Green Spaces Committee that there would be a further small increase in 2024/25 to £49.00. This notice was in the Winter email Newsletter (15 December 2022). The £22.00 contribution to water for the sites that have access is not currently planned to change.

All money raised from rents (in addition to an allocation from the council budget) is spent on improving the sites and I hope that you agree that this still represents excellent value for money.

Allotment Policies

The draft policies that you saw in December

- Waiting List policy
- Cultivation Standards policy
- Sharing policy
- Policy for Keeping Livestock and Bees
- Bonfire policy

were all adopted at the January meeting of the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee and will be displayed on allotment noticeboards and the Town Council's website.

The Bonfire policy was the only one that was amended to allow bonfires on any Saturday afternoon between October and March, subject to certain conditions. Bonfires, and particularly any nuisance they cause, will be monitored and if necessary, the policy reviewed.

Plot Inspections 2023

In accordance with the Cultivation Standards policy this year's plot inspections will take place in June.



It states "cultivation of allotment gardens will be subject to a regime of inspection that is timely, fair, unintrusive

and appropriate to the season". The Inspection Team will comprise at least three people from the office staff and members of the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee.

Last year it was a task that all who participated in thoroughly enjoyed.

At least one month's notice will be given of the date and whilst you aren't required to be present during the inspection you are very welcome to be if you wish.

Introducing Your Site Representatives

Those of you with allotments at Red Beck have a new Site Representative, Rosie on plot 37. Thank you so much Rosie for stepping forward and taking this on.

The role involves showing new tenants around and explaining about life on the site, keeping an eye on things, putting notices up etc. and acting as point of contact for site issues and resolving them in conjunction with the Town Council. It is NOT part of the role to make decisions or policy, although they can be involved in discussions with the council. Chris, introduced below, says "being the rep is a good way to get know other plot holders" and we hope Rosie enjoys her new role.

She has had an allotment for over 20 years and says it's her sanctuary; "it's my own little space where I can let my imagination go". She likes to have a go at growing every kind of vegetable (except potatoes!) and fruit but productivity of her plot is challenged by a large overhanging tree. Her advice to new tenants is to "pace yourself and just enjoy growing what you can in your own space". Rosie would like to set up a seed/seedling swap and a suggestion box so keep an eye on the shed on the Shipley in Bloom allotment as she is thinking of using this as the focal point.



Chris Cooper has been the Site Representative for Caroline Street for several years.

He writes "I've been a plot holder since 2015, having been on the waiting list for nearly seven years. I was fortunate that it was a new plot, albeit one that still needed a lot of digging over and rubble removal - seven bins full! Having just been made redundant it was a mental health lifeline before returning to full time work; it gave me a real purpose every morning to get up and do something. Out in the fresh air, getting exercise, meeting new people and learning about growing fruit and vegetables - what's not to like?

When friends knew I had an allotment they were encouraging me to grow all sorts of things - rhubarb, radishes and courgettes, none of which I like! I decided I was only going to grow what I knew I liked but experiment too. I was aware it was me against the pigeons and slugs and bugs but I think I'm winning!

The best advice I got from people, and it's what I tell newbies too, "Rome wasn't built in a day". Plan out how you'd like the allotment to look in terms of beds, paths, greenhouse etc and then start section by section. Decide what you want to grow and then the first place to prepare is where the earliest seeds or plants need to grow. (By the way, you WILL develop a seed fetish!)

One thing you'll quickly appreciate from looking at seeds in shops or catalogues is the vast array of varieties. Did you know there are more than 100 varieties of sprouts? I didn't until I started growing them (not all 100 I hasten to add!). I'd never had chard until I grew it - so be adventurous and try something new as well as all your favourites. Ask people on neighbouring plots what they've been successful with. Although every plot is different, I've always struggled with carrots unlike some neighbours while my beetroot's been outstanding compared with theirs.

Every day is a learning day; you'll be equally excited and baffled by what goes on. There'll be days when you spend hours on your plot and when you go to leave ask yourself "*What have I done?*" as it looks the same as when you arrived. That's one of the beauties of allotment life though. Another is that family are never stuck for ideas for birthday or Christmas presents. When it comes to satisfaction, the proof is in the (home grown fruit) pudding."

Tree Works



Work on trees on the boundary with the railway line at Red Beck was scheduled for week commencing 16 December, but subsequently cancelled due to the industrial action.

It has been rescheduled for week commencing 26 April. Anyone with a plot containing a boundary tree is asked to ensure access during this time.

With regard to tree surveys across the Red Beck and Caroline Street sites, the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee has now agreed a prioritised programme of works for which quotes are being sought. If the work cannot be completed before the end of March when birds will begin nesting in earnest, it will need to wait until the Autumn.

Hopefully now the weather has turned slightly drier site visits can take place to overlay the trees onto individual plots so that you can be advised of any comments that relate to your trees and any action that is required.

Red Beck Community Gardens - Lottery Grant Application

The Town Council has submitted an application to the National Lottery

"Awards for All" for a grant of £10,000 (of the

£16,000 needed) to transform the central area of derelict land at Red Beck into community gardens.



If the application is successful, it will increase provision for those without gardens to come together, learn gardening

skills and grow their own food. The Shipley in Bloom Working Group will manage the project (see the article below calling for volunteers) which will take at least a year to establish. We'll know the outcome by mid-April so fingers crossed!

Shipley in Bloom Needs You!

Public meeting; Saturday 25 February at 10am in Room 1, Shipley Library

Would you like to use your gardening skills to brighten Shipley up? Volunteering with Shipley in Bloom could be just the thing. If you know areas in Shipley that need planting or weeding, like building bug hotels, planters or benches or even have social media or fundraising skills we would like to hear from you. You can contribute your ideas and spend as little or as much time working on projects as you can spare. We might even decide to do some of our planning in a café or bar!

We are also looking for a coordinator which is a voluntary role, supported by the Town Council with a small budget for projects. Could you motivate others to see the allotment, and other projects through?

Shipley in Bloom allotment before



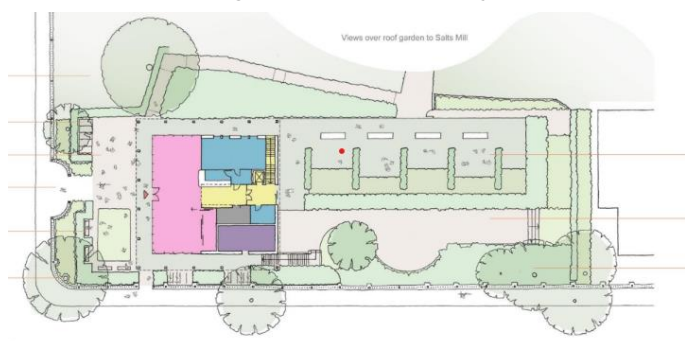
and during

Come along, hear more and share your ideas. If you can't make it on the 25th and would still like to be involved, contact the Town Council and keep an eye on www.shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk or follow the Shipley in Bloom Facebook page.

Community, Heritage and Future Technology Centre, Caroline Street

The architects presented plans for the new Shipley College sponsored building to the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee on 30 November 2022.

Aerial view showing allotment boundary



Three plot holders attended and questions which could not be answered by the architects relating to parking, how the building would be used and access arrangements for students were forwarded to the College.

Allotment Holders' Forum

In the absence of any feedback on your forum it has been agreed to reduce their frequency to two per year. Together with this Newsletter they provide an opportunity for the Town Council to consult with you and keep you updated with issues relating to the allotments and discuss what matters to you. The next one will be held in May; the date will be known when the schedule for 2023/24 municipal year is agreed.

Plot holder are also very welcome to attend meetings of the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee. The final one of this municipal year will be on Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 7.00pm in Room 1 of Shipley Library.

WhatsApp group

Want to share gardening hints and tips with other allotments holders? Chris has set up a WhatsApp group and it's not too late to join- just let Chris or the Town Council Office know your phone number and you can be included.

Staying in Touch

Shipley Town Council can be contacted at shipleytowncounciloffice@gmail.com or telephone 07517 742566.

Your site representatives are:

Red Beck - Rosie, plot 37 (telephone 07870 362975)

Caroline Street - Mr Chris Cooper, plot 21 (Chrisinsaltaire@sky.com)