



Shipley
Town Council

Allotment Newsletter

Issue 12#
February 2025

Welcome to the spring edition of your quarterly allotment newsletter.

I hope wind repairs are minimal and 'plot plans' for the year are underway? Last week I began my spring cleaning by picking up quite a bit of litter 'blown' onto the plots over the wall from Otley Road and from the path alongside the car park at Red Beck. Following on



from the latest meeting of the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee, there is a lot happening that I want to share with tenants, and get your feedback on, so please read on.

Helen Mawson, Deputy Town Clerk

Red Beck Allotment - Boundary Works

Network Rail are constructing a train cleaning depot on the old Crossley Evans site, adjacent to Red Beck allotments. The site is currently being prepared. A retaining wall and new fence is required on the boundary line for which the contractor requires temporary access to approximately a 3m strip on the allotment side of the existing fence. This may cause some inconvenience to tenants with plots immediately adjacent to the boundary.

A meeting, open to all Red Beck allotment tenants, is being held on **Monday 24 February, from 7.30pm in the Kirkgate Community Centre**, Kirkgate, Shipley where the plans will be presented and any questions answered. Please do come along to hear more.

Self-Management of Allotment Sites- want to explore taking this on?

Val Harris, Northcliffe Allotments made an inspiring presentation to the committee on how that site is self-managed and what it has achieved.



Members of the Garden Working Party at work.
Photo courtesy of Val Harris

Val described many years of work resulting in full self-management (which now involves site management, waiting list and lettings, rent setting, collection and allocation) under an SLA signed in 2019. They are registered as a CIO meaning that members (of which there are 185) vote for the trustees (8 committee members) and they can apply for grant funding (successful applications have installed a grey water system, workshop and toilet). Row Reps are appointed to offer guidance to new tenants, monthly site management working sessions are held and specialist services commissioned as required.

A community garden and orchard group are open to all and a wildlife friendly (dog free) open garden is being created. Member Mojo software is used to organise and advertise events.

Benefits to self-management include purchase of bulk buys for chipping, manure, etc, skip and tool hire, event organisation to bring people together, workshops and speakers according to interests, onsite recycling and bonfires (not through the summer!).



Northcliffe Allotments solstice community bonfire. Photo courtesy of Val Harris

The challenges associated with self-management arise when members do not contribute or adhere to the rules and/or display behaviours that are contrary to an inclusive and diverse membership. It does take a lot of commitment!

This led councillors to agree that the same opportunity for self-management be offered to the sites that are currently directly managed by the Town Council (Caroline Street, Hirst Lane/Carlton Avenue and Red Beck). A set of Frequently Asked Questions has been produced (attached to this Newsletter) to cover issues such as "What does self-management involve, who does it and how is

it carried out?". **Please take a look at these and let me know by the end of March if there is interest in exploring this further** and I will arrange a public meeting.

Allotment Site Security

Following on from last edition's article on crime prevention the full Security Survey report from Shipley's Crime Reduction Officer, Nick Whitcombe has been received by the committee and is now attached, together with "10 Principles of Crime Prevention", the "Defensive Planting Leaflet" and "Shed/Garage Security Leaflet" for you to consider. Nick says

"There is no one preventative measure that will stop crime and ASB on an allotment site. A layered approach is needed, with each layer playing its part. Starting from the perimeter and working inwards to the eventual target."

He goes on to stress that the behaviour and practices of the allotment holders are contributing factors in facilitating low value thefts from and anti-social behaviour on site.

"If an offender can pick up and walk away with anything they can get a tenner for then that will be worth it to them and that's why they will keep returning. On my visit I



estimated I could have earned myself about £200 worth of goods by doing just that."

Hopefully his information and advice will help you to protect your property. Nick will be repeating his inspection at some point to see how his advice has been put into practice.

Parks & Recreation Grants

The Allotments & Green Spaces Committee has made available £3000 to support ideas for enhancing the provision and enjoyment of Shipley parks, green spaces and outdoor recreational pursuits where Shipley residents (parish boundary) and/or biodiversity benefit from the project. The committee is keen to support young people's ideas and have divided the money available between three age groups; under 12 years, 12-18 years and over 18 years with applications being accepted for any amount up to £1000. Application forms are available on the Town Council website and the closing date is 23 March 2025.

Share Your Spare - Shipley Town Council Allotment Groups

This year we are going to try again to collect donations to support Windhill Community Centre's food market, providing low-cost food to those who need it.

There's a box at both Caroline Street and Red Beck sites and donations need to be left before noon on Mondays. It would also be helpful if you would let deputyclerk@shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk know that there is something there to be collected. Volunteers are also needed to take a turn transporting donations from the sites to the community centre on Monday afternoon. Please let me know if you can help with this.

Allotment Plot Inspections 2025/26

At the latest meeting of the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee it was agreed to inspect plots previously rated as 'poor' and 'average' twice this year; in March to ensure that a start has been made and again in July to check that things have indeed been grown. Hopefully the inspection team will be pleased with what they find. Do let the office know in advance and confidentially if you are ever experiencing any difficulties preventing you from progressing as you would wish with your plot.

Allotment Rent Invoices 2025/26

Look out in your email inbox for this year's invoice (£51 full-rate plus a contribution of £22 to the provision of water where available) arriving by the end of May. This is payable before 31 December 2025 if you want to avoid a surcharge for late payment or even termination of the tenancy agreement. Again, let the office know confidentially of any difficulties that payment might present.



Being a Good Neighbour

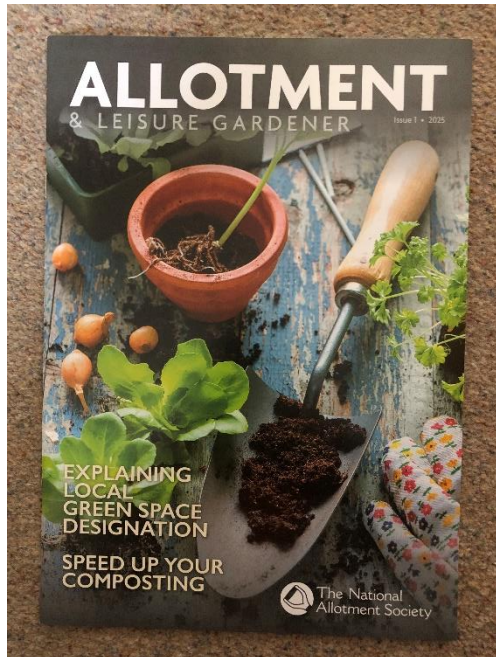
All tenants are reminded to:

- keep entrance gates closed and locked at all times
- not leave anything in communal areas, or indeed on other tenants' plots even for a short time.

Horse Manure!

[Roleystone Horse Sanctuary](#), Westfield Lane, Wrose, BD18 1LJ is offering free horse manure for use on allotment plots. It is available for collection only (they are unable to deliver) and can be contacted via Gillian Greenwood on 07779 689736.

Membership of the National Allotment Society (NAS)



Take a look at the latest [Allotment & Leisure Gardener magazine here](#) - with expert articles on composting, growing leeks and seasonal jobs plus some chard recipes to try. The magazine is available to you through the Town Council's membership of NAS.

Allotments & Green Spaces Committee and Allotment Holders' Forum 2024/25

All are welcome to attend meetings of the A&GSC held in The Callard Room, Kirkgate Community Centre. The final meeting for this municipal year will be on

Tuesday 29 April 2025, 7-9pm

Meeting papers are available on the town council website, together with back copies of this Newsletter and allotment policies.

[Shipley TC - Shipley Town Council](#)

Staying in Touch

Shipley Town Council can be contacted at deputyclerk@shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07517 742566.

Ideas and articles for this Newsletter are always welcome.

Your site representatives are:

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

Caroline Street - Mr Chris Cooper, plot 21/22 (Chrisinsaltaire@sky.com)