



Shipley
Town Council

Allotment Newsletter

Issue 11#
December 2024

How the days appear to be flying by! It doesn't seem that long since last Christmas and here we are thinking about what produce from the plots can be enjoyed as part of our festive meals.

We have another cohort of new faces to welcome to the Red Beck site. Hopefully you're enjoying making a start and any neighbours that are around are offering their advice. Remember, take your time and enjoy making your growing plans a reality (and do share your "before" and "after" transformations with us).



Helen Mawson, Deputy Town Clerk

Allotment Rents - now due

Email reminders for those who have yet to pay their plot rental invoices for April 2024 to March 2025 inclusive have been sent. **These are due by 31 December 2024.** Due to the significant number of late payments last year, taking considerable resource to collect, the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee has decided that **a 10% late payment surcharge** will be charged for payments received after the deadline and before the end of January 2025 and any payment not received by then will result in the **tenancy being terminated**. If anyone is experiencing difficulties paying their rent, please do speak confidentially to Helen in the Town Council office as soon as possible.

Allotment Rent 2026/27

With effect from 1 April 2026 the full rent for a plot will be £53 per year, with those eligible for a concession paying £26.50. Next year, you will recall, the rate will rise to £51 with water contributions remaining at £22 per year.

Results from Plot Inspections 2024

Inspections took place at the end of July as planned this year and all plot holders should now know how they fared.



Pictured right to left are Chris Cooper, Caroline St Site Representative and Councillor Mike Farren admiring full use of a plot there

Congratulations went to several plots where members of the council's A&GSC involved in the inspections were very impressed with the use of space and creativity.



So many photographs were taken the council would be able to create an inspirational display!



"The amount and variety of wildlife was absolutely fascinating and wonderful to see across the sites as well" remarked Councillor Rhona North, Chair of the A&GSC.

They were, however, concerned that not all tenants are making the most of their plots. Assessments did consider the difficult weather conditions experienced this year but 44% of plots were rated either 'average' or 'poor', with the latter being reinspected. One of the committee's objectives is to make best use of allotment land, and to ensure this happens are considering inspecting these plots twice next year; in March and again in July.



Pictured Left to Right are Councillors Pedi Obani, Mike Farren and Rhona North conducting the annual inspections

Crime Prevention Advice

Shipley's Crime Reduction Officer, Nick Whitcombe visited the Red Beck site in early December to give tenants and the council advice on how to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur.



Commenting on some of the things he found he stressed "passing criminals will take any opportunity to steal your garden tools and furniture. They can also use what you leave out to help them commit crimes."



His top tips to prevent this include:

- Make sure gates are locked and fences are well maintained
- For sheds, consider using coach bolts and/or clutch screws (reinforcement of door frames may be necessary), an approved padlock and a shed bar

- Consider signage and alarm options. Basic battery-operated PIR alarms cost from £25
- Tools should be out of sight - they can be used to gain entry to premises
- Garden furniture and storage boxes should be secured (consider chaining to fixed posts)
- Consider defensive planting with spikey shrubs or application of spikey tape



His full report will be shared once available.

Our own Site Representative Chris also suggests clearly marking your property. After all, wheelbarrows offer a handy way for thieves to transport you and your neighbours' property off site to sell!



Trying Something a Little Different.....

Andy & Koko have had their plot at Caroline Street for a couple of year now and have been planting year-round crops. They successfully grew 200+ Japanese garlic over winter 23/24 the attached picture shows how they looked in early May.

Koko says "the Japanese garlic is amazing and we'd recommend this to anyone to keep the soil active over winter".



They also grew winter beans, although many were lost through the long harsh winter. Andy added "Last year's pumpkins were a big success with 20 being harvested (pictured), and the blue Japanese Hokkaido ones were amazing - ever had pumpkin cheese cake? That was Koko's brilliant culinary discovery last year!"



Despite the wet and grey weather this year their strawberry and raspberry patch saw them harvest buckets-full of berries (disappointingly for them the inspections took place shortly afterwards when the plot looked rather untidy after the harvest).

After the garlic was harvested in early July, they planted 50 Guernsey potato plants; "this is a challenge because they prefer more sunshine than is likely in Yorkshire - fingers crossed for this experiment - but we continue to push boundaries" Andy said and went on to claim "we consider ourselves very much new learners".

Potato Day 2025

West Yorkshire Organic Group are once again holding "Potato Day" in Shipley College's Exhibition Building on Saturday 8 February 2025, 10am to 2pm. There will be 40 varieties of seed potato for sale. Bring your own bags and cash only please for potato sales.



Saltaire Festival Open Gardens

Caroline Street allotments participated in Saltaire Festival's Open Gardens in September for the first time this year. Chris, the Site Representative that organized this said "It was really successful, with over 100 groups and individuals passing through over the two days. We had bright sunshine on Saturday and even though it was grey and wet on Sunday there were still plenty of people around".



When asked what he enjoyed most about participating he was quick to reply "It was lovely to show people what goes on at the allotments and I hope we might get some interest in joining the waiting list or helping out occasionally. I've told Katie, the organiser, to count us in again next year."

Well done to Chris and all those ploholders who inspired visitors by showing them what can be achieved.

Share Your Spare - Shipley Allotment Group

Donations in our first year only grew into a few more sticks of rhubarb on both sites.

Anecdotally this was not only due to poor growing conditions, but also remembering to pop any spare into the boxes by early Monday morning.

We'd be interested in any other ideas for helping collect a few more donations next year to support Windhill Community Centre's food market, providing low-cost food to those who need it.



Biodiversity Duty

Local government, including the Town Council has a new duty to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. This involves commenting on planning applications and working with others to see what is in place and what more can be done. We want to hear from you if you have an interest or experience in this and would like to get involved.

Being a Good Neighbour

All tenants are reminded not to leave anything in communal areas, or indeed on other tenants' plots even for a short time.

Caroline Street Public Toilets

The public toilets in the Caroline Street car park are now closed and in the process of being handed back to Bradford Council in preparation for the building work taking place there, hopefully including new public toilets.

Still Wanted - Deputy Site Representative for Red Beck!

Would you like to see what is involved in being an allotment Site Representative? Rosie would welcome some assistance with Red Beck. The role isn't onerous. It involves showing new plot holders around, keeping communal areas tidy and liaising with the Town Council on behalf of plot holders.

If you think you could offer some support to Rosie, please have a chat with her or Helen Mawson, Deputy Town Clerk.

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 broad beans, battery powered tools and seasonal jobs plus some festive 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 in The Callard Room, Kirkgate Community Centre and there's one forum left this municipal year where you can drop in and raise all things "allotment":

Tuesday 28 January 2025, 7-9pm
preceded by the Allotment Holders' Forum at 6pm

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)