

Welcome to another edition of your quarterly allotment newsletter combining Autumn and Winter. Whether you are tending the last of your crops for the festive table, preparing your plot or planting ready for spring crops I hope you are continuing to get the most out of your allotment and the opportunity that it offers you in getting closer to the marvel that is nature. With best wishes for Christmas and a productive 2026!



Amanda Garcia-Patchett, Chair of the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee, with Deputy Town Clerk Helen Mawson and one of the Horton Housing allotment tenants at the Red Beck Open Afternoon

Helen Mawson, Deputy Town Clerk

Your Allotment Rent Is Due!

Thank you to those who have already made payment this year. This is a friendly reminder to others that your **rent for 2025/26 must be paid by bank transfer before 31 December 2025**. Any payments made after this date will be subject to a surcharge of 10% for late payment or even termination of the tenancy agreement if payment has not been made by 18 January 2026. Contact the office if you need a duplicate invoice sending. Let us know, confidentially, if you are experiencing any difficulties with making the payment.

Announcement of Allotment Rent Increase

The Allotments & Green Spaces Committee resolved, at its meeting on 9 October, that the full rent per plot will be raised in line with inflation (at 4%) to £55 (with concessions charged at half that) and water contribution also be raised in line with inflation to £22.90 with effect from 1 April 2027. You are reminded that the full rate from 1 April 2026 will be £53 with a £22 contribution to water where provided.

Red Beck Open Afternoon

National Allotment Week each year celebrates everything that makes allotments special. This year's theme was *Cultivating Health and Wellbeing Together*.



Thanks go to members of the Red Beck Allotment Association, Horton Housing and several individual tenants who joined in opening their plots to the public on Sunday afternoon, 17 August.

This gave them an opportunity to showcase their activities, including beekeeping, sell surplus produce and baked goods and offer relaxing massages to raise funds.



Visitors were particularly fascinated by Bart's informative insight into beekeeping (above) and enjoyed Jacqui's relaxing treatments (below).



Kevin Metcalfe, the recently appointed Inclusion and Engagement Officer for Fairmount Lodge, and some of the gardening tenants of Horton Housing opened their plot to share their ideas for how they plan to develop it and hear the thoughts of their visitors (see below).



Community Gardening Collaboration

Horton Housing is a not-for-profit organisation providing housing, support, and training services across West Yorkshire. They work with people who are homeless, vulnerable, or facing complex challenges – helping them build confidence, improve wellbeing, and reconnect with their communities. Fairmount in Shipley hosts several support services and community initiatives and adjacent to Fairmount is an allotment plot that they rent from the Town Council and are developing into a shared growing space.

On 18 November Kevin Mecalfe (above) convened a meeting of interested parties (including allotment tenants and those on the waiting list) to discuss how to cultivate fresh produce on their plot with the aim of sharing it with local community groups and cafés, including those supporting people facing food insecurity or social isolation. Watch this space for more information.

Adventurous Planting and Ingenious Uses continued

Since highlighting some of the different things that are growing and the innovative uses of natural and recycled materials in the last edition, more photographs have been received of successful ideas and bumper crops. Just look at the success of Lisa's 'squash arch'.



Please continue to share your successes and perhaps any lessons learned.

Allotment Plot Re-Inspections 2025/26

You will recall back in July we celebrated the 62% of plots that were rated as "good or excellent". Tenants of the 14% of plots rated as "poor" were given two months to show considerable improvement. Re-inspection of them, plus those that had year on year consistently been rated "average" and some that had fallen between categories, took place on Friday 5 September.

The results of this were reported to the A&GSC with one tenancy being terminated and eight others being given a further chance of improvement. These will be re-inspected in March 2026.

The Committee will review the current assessment sheet at its January meeting so if you have any views that you wish to share on annual inspections do let either the Deputy Clerk or Chair know before then.

Water Supply to Allotment Sites

The water supply to both allotment plots has now been turned off, hopefully to prevent any issues with frozen pipes or leaks over the winter. This will be turned back on around Easter 2026.

Red Beck Allotment - Boundary Works

Network Rail's retaining wall on the boundary between the new train cleaning depot and Red Beck allotments is almost complete. Thanks to those tenants who fell within the 20m "exclusion zone" and complied with it. Contractors are now in discussion with the council about clearing plots 5 and 6, which have been overgrown since the site was transferred to the Town Council from Bradford Council, in order that the boundary fence can be accessed for inspection and maintenance. The date penciled in for this is Saturday 6 December, so you may well see the team on site.

Allotment Site Security

There have been further incidences of rough sleeping and theft at one of the allotment sites. Please ensure that any sheds on your plots are secured and ensure tools or supplies are marked and locked away, hidden or removed to prevent them from being stolen.

Allotments & Green Spaces Committee and Allotment Holders' Forum 2025/26

The next meeting of the committee will be on Thursday 22 January 2026 at 7pm in the Ives Room, Kirkgate Community Centre. All are welcome to attend council meetings.

The final meeting of the municipal year will be on **March 2026**, and will be preceded by the Allotment Management Forum from 6pm. All welcome.

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

[Shingley TC - Shingley Town Council](#)

Community, Heritage and Future Technology Centre, Caroline Street

Work will not now start on the new Shingley College building, funded by the Shingley Towns Fund, until the new year, now that the land has been transferred from Bradford Council. A temporary alternative access for tenants with plots at the Victoria Road end of the site will be required and the council is working with college and project representatives to establish this.

Membership of the National Allotment Society (NAS)

As well as access to the [Allotment & Leisure Gardener magazine](#) through the Town Council's membership of NAS, they also issue a monthly eNewsletter which contains news, gardening checklists, articles, and competitions. Let me know if you would like to be included in a distribution list for me to forward this to you each month.

Staying in Touch

Shingley Town Council can be contacted at hello@shingleytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07517 742566. There is a

WhatsApp group for allotment plot holders

where you can share hints and tips and ask other plot holders for advice. To join either scan the QR code or send Chris/Lisa, below, your phone number.

Ideas and articles for this Newsletter are always most welcome.

Your site representatives :

Red Beck - Lisa, plot 73 (07776 817987) and Rosie, plot 37 (telephone 07870 362975)
Caroline Street - Mr Chris Cooper, plot 21/22 (Chrisinsaltaire@sky.com)



A poster for a public meeting. At the top is a circular logo with a cow and the text 'SHINGLEY IN BLOOM'. Below the logo is a white box with the text: 'PUBLIC MEETING - SAVE THE DATE', 'Saturday 28 February 2026', 'Kirkgate Community Centre, 10.30am - Noon', 'You're invited to come celebrate the great work of the SIB volunteers have undertaken this year, and find out more about how to get involved with Shingley's entry into the Yorkshire in Bloom summer competition in 2026.', and 'Refreshments will be available'. The background of the poster is a photograph of a garden with pink flowers. At the bottom is a green banner with the Shingley Town Council logo, the website 'www.shingleytowncouncil.gov.uk', and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.