



Newport Parish Council

Allotment Newsletter - Summer 2016

Newport Parish Council, The Riverside Centre, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2QR

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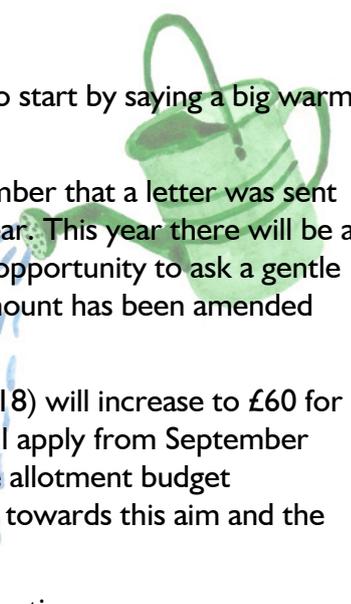
Welcome New Tenants!

We have had quite a few new plot holders join us in the last few months, so I'd like to start by saying a big warm welcome to all the new allotment tenants!

The end of this current allotment tenancy year is coming to an end, you may remember that a letter was sent out in August 2015 making you aware of the change in the charge for this tenancy year. This year there will be a charge of £55 per 10 rod plot (pro rata for the number of rods). I'd like to take this opportunity to ask a gentle reminder that if you currently pay by Standing Order, please ensure the payment amount has been amended for this year.

I would also like to give advance notice that the rent for the following year (2017/2018) will increase to £60 for a 10 rod plot, other rates will be pro rata for the number of rods. These charges will apply from September 2017. This increase is in accordance with the agreement made in 2010 to ensure the allotment budget eventually reaches a break even point. The Parish Council has been actively working towards this aim and the deficit at the end of March 2016 was £529.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk for further information.

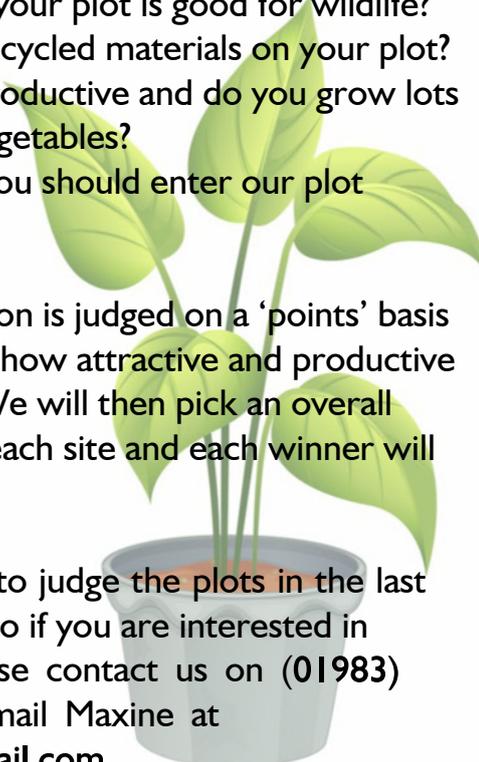


Plot Competition

Does your plot look beautiful?
Do you think your plot is good for wildlife?
Do you use recycled materials on your plot?
Is your plot productive and do you grow lots of fruit and vegetables?
If so, maybe you should enter our plot competition!

The competition is judged on a 'points' basis depending on how attractive and productive your plot is. We will then pick an overall winner from each site and each winner will win a prize!

We are going to judge the plots in the last week in July, so if you are interested in applying, please contact us on (01983) 559119 or email Maxine at maxyule@gmail.com



Pumpkin Competition

Do you think you can grow the biggest pumpkin? Then why not enter our Pumpkin Competition!

This competition is open to entrants from all the allotment sites. The pumpkins will be judged during the week commencing on 24th October and the judges will pick one overall winner from all the applicants.

There will be a prize available for whoever grows the largest pumpkin! Good luck!

Design a Scary Pumpkin

This is an opportunity for the children to flaunt their craft skills and design a super scary pumpkin!

There is a prize up for grabs for whoever makes the most frightening pumpkin and scares the judges the most!

This competition is open to all allotment sites, entrants must be 12 years or under and must design the pumpkin themselves. Well, what are you waiting for? Go plant that pumpkin!

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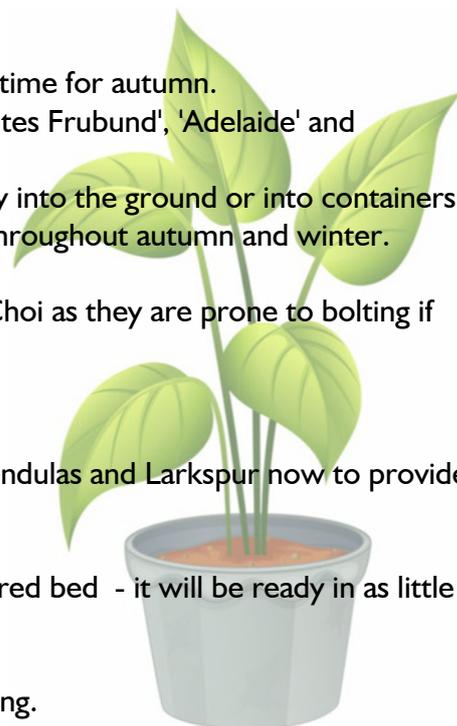
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What to Sow and Grow In July

- Make your last direct sowings of beetroot now so they mature in time for autumn.
- There is still time to direct sow fast-maturing carrots such as 'Nantes Frubund', 'Adelaide' and 'Amsterdam Forcing'.
- Sow fast-growing herbs such as coriander, dill, and parsley directly into the ground or into containers.
- Sow hardy corn salad and land cress directly into drills for crops throughout autumn and winter.
- Direct sow Endive for a tasty autumn crop.
- Now is an ideal time to start your first direct sown crops of Pak Choi as they are prone to bolting if grown before midsummer.

What to Sow and Grow In August

- Try sowing annual Poppies, California poppies, Cornflowers, Calendulas and Larkspur now to provide earlier flowers next year.
- Make a last sowing of endive outdoors for use as salad leaves.
- For something more unusual try growing kohlrabi in a well prepared bed - it will be ready in as little as 8 weeks after sowing.
- Make a final sowing of turnips in drills now.
- Direct sow Spinach 'Perpetual' now for autumn and winter cropping.



Meeting Dates

The next allotment forum will be held in October, the dates will be confirmed in the next Autumn Newsletter

Waiting List

If you or anyone you know would like to be placed on our waiting list, please contact us using the information shown above. Don't forget, we have secured an exciting new allotment site near Pan, which will be called Pan Country Park Allotments, so get your name down ASAP to be considered for a new plot.

National Allotments Week

8th - 14th August 2016 "Growing Together"

The National Allotment Society's "Growing Together" theme for National Allotments Week 2016 draws attention to the inclusive nature of allotment gardening, appealing to all sections of society from the unemployed to the professional, all races and religions and all levels of ability.

During National Allotments Week, the National Allotment Society is encouraging allotment associations across the UK to hold events during the week to welcome the wider community into their sites. The National Allotment Society's members support many initiatives, Hazel Grove Allotments have created an area suitable for people with restricted mobility; Newdigate Allotments in Bedworth welcome children from the local school who help out with their sensory garden and have met up with the resident beekeeper; another member in Porthcawl shares his plot with a group of people with a learning disability and helps them to cook the produce that they have grown and the internationally renowned People's Community Garden in Ipswich, which provides opportunity for all with food and leisure gardening, training courses and community events. Often sited in built up urban areas allotment sites contribute a significant amount to the health and well-being of communities and sites in rural areas are often important community hubs.

Can you think of an event you would like to hold in connection with the National Allotment Week? Maybe you would like to share your produce with other allotment tenants? Or host a Tea and Cake hour on your plot? If you have any ideas, please let us know! We are more than happy to help in any way we can. Our contact information is shown at the top of this newsletter... I look forward to hearing your ideas!