

# ALLOTMENT ARGUS



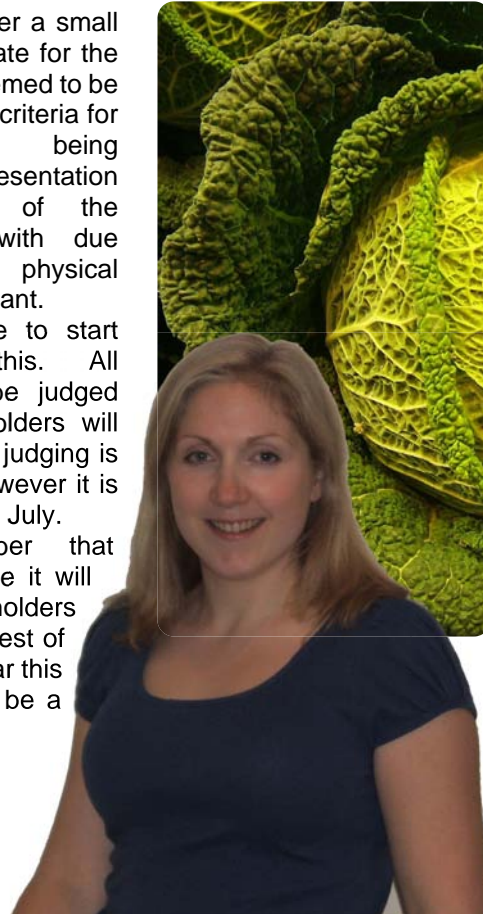
## BEST ALLOTMENT PRIZE



basis and will offer a small prize and certificate for the allotment plot deemed to be "best on site", the criteria for the judging being productivity, presentation and utilisation of the allotment but with due regard to the physical abilities of the tenant. Now is the time to start thinking about this. All allotments will be judged and allotment holders will not be told when judging is to take place, however it is likely to be during July. Please remember that although we hope it will spur allotment holders on to make the best of their plots this year this is also meant to be a "bit of fun"

At a recent Allotment Committee meeting Committee member Helen Palmer reported that she had noticed that a nearby Town Council ran an annual competition for the Best Allotment.

The Parish Council have decided to hold a similar competition on an annual



Helen Palmer

## Fencing

Yes, I know you have waited a long time for this, but the Parish Council have now erected new fencing around the allotment gardens.

This is really as much as we can do to try to keep the deer at bay. One of the penalties, as you are all only too well aware, of having allotment gardens bordering the open

forest is that we have to live alongside the Forest wildlife. I am afraid there is nothing we can do about the rabbits, squirrels and pigeons and we all know only too well how disheartening it can be when they start munching their way through our crops. Anyway, let me know if there is any improvement with

regard to visits from the deer and please remember to keep the Westwood Road gate closed as an open gate is an open invitation.

## Chickens

I don't want to alarm anyone just yet but I have had a complaint from a local resident about a particularly noisy cockerel waking him up at dawn. It seems the complaint has also gone to New Forest District Council. Environmental Protection so

if you think your bird might be the culprit please consult with them as there are steps that can be taken to minimise the noise and still keep the bird on site. We will just have to wait and see if the complaint is taken any further.



## Allotment Terms and Conditions

The Parish Council have drawn up a new set of Terms and Conditions which all allotment holders will be asked to sign this October.

A copy can be found on the Parish Council website.

One of the main changes will be that **new** tenants will be required to pay a deposit of one year's rent. This will be returned to the tenant upon vacation of the plot and provided that the plot is left in a decent and tidy condition.

This ruling will only apply to new tenants but is now in force.

This ruling has been brought in to try and prevent the situation continuing whereby tenants leave plots in a disgraceful condition with little intention of ever doing any work.

It may seem harsh but we are trying to protect all our tenants, most of whom tend their plots well.

Many of you will know that I dread a new series of gardening programmes coming on the television because it always produces a spate of enquiries for allotments.

These programmes do not show all the hard work that is necessary for a good end result.

**New tenants to pay a deposit of one year's rent, to be returned upon vacation of the plot provided that it is left in a decent and tidy condition.**

## Allotment Fees

Whilst visiting the allotment gardens recently I was told there are "rumours" that fees will be increasing this Autumn.

Fees will not be increasing until October 2010.

This means they have been held steady for three years. During this time we have seen many changes and increases in the costs of maintaining the allotments have risen dramatically. So in October 2010 rents will

increase to £20 for a starter plot, £30 for a half plot and £60 for a full plot.

There are still some allotment holders who are not making full use of their plots and we still have a waiting list so my only advice has to be that all allotment holders should consider whether the increases will mean that they have to give back some of the plot or plots they are not using to the

Parish Council in order that they can be re let.

One of my main grumbles has to be that plots, when they are handed back, are done so in a deplorable condition and the Parish Council have to spend money bringing them back to a good standard or let new tenants have them for a year rent free.

This practice adds to our costs and is not fair to other allotment holders.

At the same time I would like to say that if any allotment holder who keeps their plot in a good condition does find difficulty in finding their rent they should approach the Parish Council where they will receive confidential advice.



## Miscellaneous Ramblings

The water has been turned on again.

Previous experience shows that this usually heralds a downpour!

Please can you all ensure that taps are not left running and that hoses are disconnected from taps after use.

We are a metered site and wasted water is very expensive.

However, this leads me to ask if you could try to find ways to have your own sustainable water supply on site.

I also feel I must remind you that water points are for hand held hose pipes and

watering cans, provided this does not disadvantage other tenants. The use of non-hand held equipment, eg sprinklers and other irrigation systems is not permitted.

You are also reminded that no bonfires will be allowed (except with written permission from the Parish Council) between 1st May and 30th September.

Tenants must exercise due consideration for other allotment holders and neighbouring properties when having bonfires and these should only be lit in extreme circumstances and with the Clerk's permission.

When a bonfire is lit, under no circumstances should it be left unattended until it has fully burnt out or has been suitably and safely extinguished by the allotment holder.

We are getting complaints already from nearby residents so I have taken the opportunity to enclose a leaflet from NFDC to remind everyone to try to be a good neighbour when it comes to bonfires.

Himalayan Balsam is here again. You can identify it by the rather attractive pink flower.

However it must be dealt with under the invasive

weeds control procedure. The Forestry Commission will be undertaking a programme to try to deal with it both on the verges and inside the allotments.

### ▼Himalayan Balsam



## Contact Details

If you need to contact me about any matter concerning the Parish Council in general or the Allotment Gardens in particular my details are as follows:

Mrs Margaret Weston,  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
Lyndhurst Parish Council,  
Woodlands,  
Fritham,  
Lyndhurst,  
Hampshire  
SO43 7HJ

Tel: 023 8081 3218

Email: [lyndhurstpc@woodlands.mail1.co.uk](mailto:lyndhurstpc@woodlands.mail1.co.uk)

For more information about the work of the Parish Council please visit our website at

[www.lyndhurstparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.lyndhurstparishcouncil.org.uk)

