



## Allotment News *December 2016*

**Badgers:** We are aware, that they are making their way down the allotment at an alarming rate and 'trashing' everything in their way. We have spoken to The Badgers Trust and Protected Species Ecology Ltd. The Parish Council have decided that the best course of action to take is, fencing of the current allotments, at the end of the tunnels of the badger sett. In doing this no tunnels will be touch or damaged. Which allows the work to be carried out at any time of the year, without the need of a licence. The underground chain link fence will be inserted to a depth of 1.8meters. This means a loss of around 19 half plots from plot number 13A up to plot 28.

The Parish have agreed to keep the current allotments but also in the process of looking and then hopefully purchasing another piece of land in the village. This will enable the parish to offer a greater number of plots that are more accessible to a larger number of locals.

### **W**aiting list

Due to the issues with the Badgers. The 11 names that we have on the list will be allocated plots once the current plot holders that are affected have been re-homed, this could be on the current plots or on the new site.

**Green Toilet:** This will be placed on hold until the site has been secured from badger activity.

### **C**ommunications

Due to the current issues and situation both the Chairman Anne and Assistant Clerk Emma are more than happy to meet with any of you that have concerns on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January from 10am -11am or on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January at the Parish Consultation event.

As a way of keeping our costs down and to be able to communicate with you more easily. We are using email more and more. If you have an email address and would be happy for us to have it, please email [emma.carter@freshwater-parish.org.uk](mailto:emma.carter@freshwater-parish.org.uk)



### **G**reen houses/Sheds

If you have a greenhouse or shed on your plot, please could you ensure it is safely secured for the upcoming winter months.

### **A**llotment competition:

Numerous visits have been made up to the allotments by both the Allotment Chairman and myself. Over the past 12 months. We have been watching the progress taking place on all the plots. And we are now able to announce who the winners are and our congratulations go to: -

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mr Brian Steward plot 1.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mr & Mrs White plot 29.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Mr Dave Tyrell plot 6B.

Each of you have a certificate, voucher and a plaque. Well done!

Certificates and vouchers have also been awarded to the following people:

- Mr Tom Ranson. Plot 3A&3B, for the amazing progress made this year.
- Mr Brian Leach. Plots 8,9,11 for reaching the final stages of the competition.
- Mrs Marie Slater. Plot 15B for reaching the final stages of the competition.
- Mr Hugh Brown. Plot 19,20A,20B for reaching the final stages of the competition.

Mr DeSilva. Plot 30B for reaching the final stages of the competition and for outstanding work for the first year of holding a plot.

Mrs Sarah Bailey. Plot 34B for reaching the final stages of the competition.

The following people have also gained certificates for reaching the final stages of the competition:

- Mr Ray Scott plot 23B
- Mr & Mrs Trill plot 21B
- Mr & Mrs Green plot 25B
- Mr Yalden plot 26A
- Mr Bob Currie plot 27
- Messrs Coombes plot 28
- Mr Peter Whitmore Plots 35A&35B

If you would all like to pop into the office to collect your certificates and prizes where applicable they are ready and waiting for you.

**Congratulations to all winners.**



### **Message from Cllr Anne Bamford, Chairman of the Allotments Committee**

It has been a busy year. I would like to thank the allotment holders for all their help and support with our rubbish amnesty that we ran earlier this year. It has made a huge difference to the overall appearance of the site itself. From the beginning of the year Emma and I made regular visits to the allotments and noted the plots that were being well prepared and later produced a wide range of crops. These were then put forward to the allotment competition and a draw took place for the final winners.

The badger problem has been high in the agenda for our meetings. The sett has been highlighted as one of the largest that has been identified and the most ancient. Time has been spent looking at options and at our full parish meeting in November it was agreed that we would stop the badgers coming into the site with underground fencing with the loss of some of the plots. We have also been advised that if we extend the allotment, on the current site, that the problem could become worse. It has been agreed that we now look for another piece of land that the parish could buy, hopefully, with better access and parking.

## **Suggestions**

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