



# GROWING TOGETHER

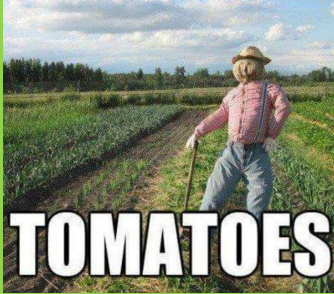
# ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER

## Good Day Fellow Allotmenters!!

If you haven't already met me, my name is **Marie Snell** and I joined the Harwich Town Council's staff team as Assistant Town Clerk in March of this year. You will find me in the Guildhall office Monday to Friday along with Lucy (Town Clerk) and Andy (Estate Supervisor).

I have previous Local Government experience and have served an extensive career as a Military Musician. I am very personable, friendly and always keen to help someone in need. I welcome fresh ideas and innovation so please feel free to call up or call in. I look forward to working with you all and hope I can be of great service to the allotment family.

I FEEL GOOD FROM MY HEAD



TOMATOES

### CONTACT DETAILS

There are occasions when the council may need to contact all plot holders via quicker and more efficient means than letter. It would be appreciated if could ensure that we have your up to date e-mail address on record.

### Electronic Invoicing

Please be aware enquiries are being made with a view to moving over to electronic invoicing. Invoices will then be sent via email with the hope of initiating this process in September 2023.

Watch this space

### Allotment Representatives Role

Harwich Town Council is still looking for site representatives from **Dunns Meadow** and **Boatswains Call** to consider undertaking a voluntary position **to assist the committee with knowledge and support for the management of the site.**

The main duties involve monitoring the site, assisting/advising the committee and council staff and attending Allotments Committee meetings which are held 4 times a year at the Guildhall, Church Street.

If you feel you can offer your time and support to the committee in this role, please forward a letter of interest giving brief details of why you would like the position.

**Becoming an Allotment Representative entitles you to one plot free rent!!**

### Price Increase

**Please be informed from September 2023, price per rod will increase to £5. Those in receipt of state pension will continue to pay at 25% discounted rate.**



### Bonfires

Members of HTC Allotments Committee have agreed that the winter month timings for lighting of bonfires as of September 2022 is to include the month of February.

**Winter Timings: October to February –After 1500hrs**

**Summer Timings: March to September –After 1800hrs**



I went to my allotment and found that there was twice as much soil as there was the week before.

The plot thickens...

## How to Reduce the Need to Water

Dig in or mulch with plenty of organic matter; this will help to retain moisture in the soil.

- Apply mulches when the soil is warm and moist, this will reduce water loss due to evaporation and also suppress weeds.
  - Weeds compete for moisture and nutrients in the soil so weed regularly or cover soil with a weed suppressing geo-textile. The weeds, roots and all can be composted if processed correctly by drowning in water or put in a black plastic bag in the sun until they decompose. Weed seeds will only be destroyed in the hot compost process.
- Grow crops that suit your local conditions. A greenhouse or poly-tunnel can increase the need for water significantly so water harvesting from these structures is Important.

- [www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk](http://www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk)

## Useful Websites for

### Newbies

[www.nsalg.org.uk/growing-advice/monthly-advice/september/](http://www.nsalg.org.uk/growing-advice/monthly-advice/september/)

[www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables/allotments-getting-started](http://www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables/allotments-getting-started)

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

## WILDFLOWERS

Please note, you are required to seek permission from the council to grow wildflowers on your plot. They must be located in the centre of the plot, in a raised bed, no larger than 2m x 2m if you have a 10-rod plot or 1m x 1m if you have a 5-rod plot.



## Black Plastic Ground Covering

Black plastic covering has proved very helpful with controlling weed growth and managing the areas of a plot not currently being cultivated.

The 500g black polythene plastic sheeting which comes in a width of 4 metres and is sold in lengths of 5 metres (20 square metres) is offered by Harwich Town Council at a very competitive cost of £8.60 per 20sqm.

Should you wish to take advantage of this scheme, please contact Andy, HTC's Estate Supervisor on 01255 507211 (option 5) who will arrange to take payment and organise collection of your order.



What do you call it when you spin around in an allotment?

A PLOT TWIST!!

## CAN YOU HELP?

We sometimes become aware of plot holders who are temporarily unable to work their plots through no fault of their own, but very much wish to retain them. We are looking to build a team of volunteers who would be willing to assist when possible to keep such plots in a reasonable condition until their owners are able to return to them.

Would you be willing to be part of this team?

**YOUR ALLOTMENT**



If you would like to contribute to future newsletters, please contact the office with suggestions.

**Assistant Clerk to the Council**

**Marie Snell**

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**01255 507211 (option 4)**

