

# Andover Allotments Newsletter Spring Edition



WE ARE BACK!!! What a whirlwind it has been over the past two years – we do hope you are all doing well and pleased to see that things are finally getting back to some normality. Speaking of whirlwinds, Storm Eunice wasn't messing about, was she?! We saw a lot of sheds having a rest on their sides, polytunnels taking off and greenhouse glass flying around. We appreciate everyone who acted on these issues so quickly!

## **Growing vegetables isn't for everyone...but HAY, it's in my jeans!**



We have decided to bring back the scarecrow competition that we know you all love and this year the judging will take place on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. This should give everyone time to get involved, including your children and grandchildren over the half term. The Officers look forward to seeing all your wonderful scarecrows.

We do require you to send us your site, name, plot number & the names of your little helpers so we can enter you into the competition and to ensure nobody is forgotten during the judging process.

## **I wasn't all that interested in gardening, but I planted a few seeds, and it grew on me!**

As the Officers have been able to begin regular site visits, we have recently come across some fantastic plots across all our sites. With that in mind, we thought it would be fun to host a "Best Kept Plot" competition for each site. This will take place on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022**.

If you wish to take part, please send us your site, name and plot number.



### **Absolutely radishing!**



We would like to welcome all our new tenants that we have taken on recently and have been very impressed with the amount of progress you have made so far. Can we please remind all tenants to request permission from the Officers before erecting a shed, greenhouse or polytunnel. If you do not know already, invoicing will commence at the beginning of September 2022. All invoices are sent via post, therefore please let us know if you have changed your address. If you haven't already made a start on your plot, now is the time to

start sowing your plants with the fabulous weather we have been having!

### **Why doesn't Elton John like lettuce? He's more of a Rocket Man!**

Just to make you all aware, the Andover Gardening Fair will be taking place this weekend on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May between 10am and 3pm at Andover High Street. There will be some plant stalls, a children's corner, live music and some make and do workshops.



### **Your good seed for the day!**



Since the Officers have started site visits again, we have noticed more and more plots without plot markers. Please may we ask you to make sure you all clearly display your plot number as it will really help the Officers and our contractors to locate the correct plot. This can be something as simple as a plain brick with your plot number painted on it, if you have a shed or greenhouse, this is a great place to display your plot number or if you want to be creative, make it as fancy as you like! If there is any uncertainty as to what your plot number is, then please see your Tenancy Agreement.

### **One more thyme!**

Just a gentle reminder, please can we ask everyone to have a general tidy up of their plot. The Officers have noticed some overflowing compost bins during our site visits which also contain non-compostable items. Please can we ask that these are removed and disposed of correctly off site. For example, we have seen glass, carpet and wood which all sadly encourage the rats as a nice warm bed for the night! Thank you for your co-operation.



### **Someone threw my 70s records on the bonfire. It was a disco inferno!**



Since the clocks have changed, we are now on Summer time hours for bonfires. This means that bonfires must be held after 7pm and they must be in an incinerator bin and supervised at all times. Please ensure the incinerator is positioned away from any fencing, hedging and sheds etc. As we are sure you are aware, no household rubbish should be burnt, only dry material such as diseased plants and wood in small quantities. As local residents will be using their gardens more this time of year and having their windows open, please be mindful before starting your bonfire.

Finally – if you happen to change your email address during the year, please can you ensure you inform the Officers so that we can amend our records and keep you informed of future updates.

Thank you for your help and support, particularly during these challenging times over the past two years. Kind regards,

**Fern and Jo**

