

ALLOTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 24 April 2018

There are now 27 plots; two are full size (8 rods) and the rest vary between 3 and 5.5 rods. Six of the plot holders are from Linton, the majority of the rest from Coxheath and Marden.

At one stage last year there were five vacant plots, for various reasons such as ill health and plot holders moving out of the area. Local advertising resulted in filling all but one. In the meantime, the grassed area round the bonfire site and some of the grass paths between vacant plots had become overgrown, so it was necessary to get the grass trimmed with outside help.

The small plot on the north side has become increasingly shady as the trees on the boundary have grown, so this has been reduced in size to reflect the limited area which can still be cultivated. This has now been re-let as an interim measure to new Linton residents who are waiting for a larger plot to become vacant in due course.

There were ongoing issues with Maidstone Borough Council contractors failing to empty the garden waste bin, over several weeks. This was eventually resolved, after many phone calls, letters and emails.

As in recent years attendance at the autumn Open Afternoon had been dwindling because of conflicting events, it was decided not to hold it in 2017. The spring Seed and Plant swap was well attended and over a dozen plot holders came along to the Autumn Tidy Up on 4 November. The enthusiastic working party cleared all the boundaries and, despite earlier wet weather, every scrap was burnt on the annual bonfire.

Two compost bins have been purchased so that the newly divided plots have a bin each. Plot holders are keen to compost weeds when possible and have made some ingenious structures for compost bays, not to mention fruit and vegetable cages.

There was no rent increase.

We are fortunate to have a band of such enthusiastic gardeners, whose efforts are rewarded by some excellent crops. The friendly and helpful ambiance adds to everyone's enjoyment and thanks go to our plotters for their support and hard work.