



Welcome

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which we hope will keep you updated about the Council and what is happening with the allotments.

I (Richard Styles) joined Walmer Parish Council as Clerk on 1st May and will be the person who will be working with Joanne Watson, the allotments officer for WPC. Having been a Clerk for some time I hope that my experience will be helpful to both the Council and you.

LEAD COUNCILLOR ON ALLOTMENTS: Cllr Tony Byfield has taken on the responsibility of being the lead Councillor for Walmer's allotments and from now on he will be on site from time to time, to inspect, and look at various issues as they arise. Please make him welcome and make him, or Joanne aware of any issues you might like to raise.

ALLTOMENT FENCE: The fence aligning Campbell Road is showing signs of instability. The Council has inspected it and it will be asked to authorise remedial measures to stabilise the fence. This may mean fitting additional support struts and foundations as well as planting shrubs and other methods to stabilise the embankment, where soil erosion has occurred. The metal fencing is old, but serviceable and with additional support could last for many years to come.



FOXES: There is an active urban fox population in Walmer and there tends to be a 'marmite' view of their activities by residents. Some residents are very supportive of them, others are less so. I have lived in various rural areas and have experienced both sides of their activity. I can see the attraction of seeing untamed nature in your back garden, but they can and do create mischief, when they bury loot which they have caught, killed, or purloined etc. I have seen dead chickens, birds, meat of all descriptions, shoes, gloves, and other impedimenta half buried in flower beds and vegetable plots. Foxes can, and do, make a mess of your gardens and allotments and we should be minded about the effect on others, when deciding to feed foxes on site. Not everyone is a fan of foxes.

I have received one or two complaints about the damage caused by foxes, and to be fair, the allotments are there for people to enjoy horticulture and not as a nature reserve. Walmer Parish Council cannot forbid the feeding of foxes, but we can ask you to think of your fellow tenants when leaving any scraps from a picnic on site or contemplating carrying out an active feeding program. KCC have done (or are carrying out) a study on urban foxes in North Kent and we await their results.



SWCAA – MEMBERSHIP

The Council has renewed membership on your behalf for another year, so you will all receive the collective benefits of membership. SWCAA is a not-for-profit community interest company offering low cost membership which includes FREE allotment insurance and are one of the largest allotment advisory organisations in the UK. www.swcaa.co.uk

We welcome any feedback concerning the allotments at Campbell Road. I am delighted to have joined Walmer and look forward to meeting you all in the future. Richard Styles, Clerk

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