

Allotments & Land Report 12th October 2026

NORMAN ROAD AND NASH GARDENS ALLOTMENTS

A large plot has been split in two at Norman Road, with the original owner taking one half. The second plot is being offered out to the next person on the waiting list. We have also had a holder give up their plot on this site, meaning that two more people will be removed from the waiting list, leaving 28 people on the list.

Nash Gardens has also seen a plot become vacant, which will be offered out, leaving 29 people on the waiting list.

Water will be turned off on 30th October for the winter period.

A non-recyclable waste removal will be arranged for January/February as in previous years.

Decision required: Shall the waiting lists remain closed for another year, or re-open for people to be added?

MOCKETT'S WOOD

Materials have been ordered and delivered, and progress is being made to commence the paving/flooring for the first rest area from 14th October. This is very much the pilot project and will hopefully level out any teething problems going forward with the main path and other rest area. The Gardeners and our Operations Officer will be helping within the project. The Operations Officer has been working alongside the Woodland Officer weekly.

The Woodland Officer has continued with the management of the woods and has a couple of volunteer groups from schools who visit on a regular basis. Dead hedging to the fenced off areas continues.

The management of the woods has mostly been well received, though we have had a few comments that the woods should be left as they were. We do explain that any woods need a management plan to enable them to continue flourish and to introduce more flora and fauna, which has definitely happened at Mockett's.

A 'Thank You' buffet was held at Pierremont in July for the Friends of Mockett's Wood.



CULMER'S AMENITY LAND

Boxgreen NJL continue to undertake the general ground maintenance of the area.

Arrangements have been made for Boxgreen to remove the ivy over the flint wall at the rear of Culmers to prevent damage to the wall and ivy growing into gardens.

The Community Engagement Officer is arranging a "Big Plant Week at Culmers, 21st to 29th November which Councillors will have received information about.

PIERREMONT PARK GROUNDS

Boxgreen NJL continue to undertake the grounds maintenance of our Grounds surrounding Pierremont Hall.

During the drainage work within the flower bed by the High Street, Boxgreen worked alongside the drainage contractors and only one large shrub had to be removed. This will be replaced from a border to the side of the cottage that will need to be made smaller to allow scaffolding to be erected.

Trees have been cut back from the roofs to try and help to reduce squirrels jumping of the roofs and eating the glue that holds the lead down.

LAND UNDER LICENCE

The Gardeners have been busy throughout the summer with the gardens requiring a lot of watering! Beds have continued to be kept in shape with weeding, deadheading etc.

The War Memorial bed has been cleared, ready to be replanted on 20th October for the Remembrance service. Further winter bedding will also be planted at Victoria Gardens in the bed near to Morelli's.

During the autumn/winter period the gardeners will be:

Cutting down in Balmoral.

Additional planting on both rockeries.

Cutting back by entrance and additional planting in any large gaps at Louisa Bay end (near bus shelter).

Pruning roses and climbers at Louisa end.

Prune roses in Pierremont park.

Continuation of mowing as required.

The Gardeners will also be helping at Mockett's Wood when we require a larger workforce, with the Woodland Officer helping the Gardeners with the larger pruning areas.

We will contact TDC to arrange the week in Nuckells Gardens to prepare the area for winter. As no further work was carried out within the Gardens by TDC/Dickens Museum volunteers following our last week in March, we will need to re-evaluate helping within this area next year.

Deputy Town Clerk