

## **Press Release: Enter Hailsham's Best Allotment Competition**

The Town Council's Hailsham In Bloom committee is now searching for the town's most attractive allotment.

Judging for the Best Kept Allotment competition will take place during June and all allotment holders are automatically entered. The judges will be looking for:

- Variety and quality of the crop(s)
- Environmental sustainability
- Control of weeds and litter
- Effective use of compost
- Use of grey water and mulch (and other water conservation activities)
- General appearance of the plot

"Running an allotment strikes me as a highly enjoyable and sociable hobby" said Councillor Jeff Bentley-Astor, chairman of Hailsham In Bloom. "Allotment holders often put in a lot of time and commitment to keep a plot in an excellent growing condition and this competition is an opportunity for such people to receive the recognition they deserve for their efforts."

The Hailsham Horticultural Society will be judging individual plots and the winner will be announced shortly before the South & South East in Bloom judges' tour in early July.

John Henderson, chairman of the Hailsham Horticultural Society commented, "Allotments have been known to provide a great sense of well-being and give fulfilment to people who, through their own skills and effort, produce their own food. They are also a great way of saving money on weekly shops, which is so important in these recession-hit times."

"I have been especially impressed with the type of produce allotment tenants have been growing in Hailsham over the past few years, and will be delighted to acknowledge the efforts of growers entering the competition again this year."

The closing date for all privately owned allotment holders (those not entered automatically) is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Entry forms can be downloaded at [hailshaminbloom.org](http://hailshaminbloom.org) and are available to collect at the Town Council Offices, Inglenook, Market Street.

For further information about judging criteria Best Kept Allotment competition, contact Hailsham Town Council on 01323 841702.

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