



Welcome to your 2023 Allotment Newsletter

Get the best from your allotment



Following a successful inspection on Thursday 14th July 2022, the allotment competition winners were: **Oakenshaw**

1st Prize
Plots 45 & 46 Mr D & Mrs L Berry

Highly Commended
Plots 5 & 6 Mr R Kitching & Mrs B Kitching
Plots 13 & 14 Mr M Ajdary & Mr J Zand
Plot 15 Mrs J Montgomerie & Mr S Allwright

Best New Plot
Plot 21 Mr S Wilks



Springfield
1st Prize
Plot 19 Mr B Cooper & Mr L Cooper

Highly Commended
Plot 14 Mr B Smith & Mr A Smith
Plot 22 Mr D Hagar

Best New Plot
Plot 13 Mrs J Inglis



Park Top
1st Prize
Plots 2 & 3 Mr J Beard

Highly Commended
Plots 4 & 6 Mr J Fleming
1st Prize winners received a cheque for £25. Highly Commended and Best New Plot winners received a cheque for £20.



Allotment Inspections 2023

Allotment Inspections will coincide with National Allotment Week 2023 and will take place on Thursday 10th August 2023, commencing at 9.45am at Oakenshaw, 11.00am at Park Top and 11.30am at Springfield.

It is hoped that a judging panel will have been appointed to visit all sites.

All allotment winners will be notified in writing and invited to have their photograph taken receiving the award. This will be done at the Town Council Meeting in September 2023.

Please note 50% of your plot must be cultivated and maintained as stated in your Allotment Gardens Lettings Policy. Failure to do so, will result in additional rent being charged following the inspections.

Health and Well-Being strategy

Allotments contribute to aspirations to help improve local and community nutrition. Surplus produce can be gifted to food banks and local cafes', this has been done successfully within GWTC in 2022 with the expectations that this can be extended further in 2023. Allotments promote emotional resilience and health and well-being both for an aging population and to support a future generation of younger "allotmenters."

Thank you for your generosity.

Avian Flu update

Avian flu remains a threat to those who keep poultry and captive birds within their allotments. Notices both from GWTC and DEFRA were posted on all gates across all allotment sites in November highlighting the Government's response. Subsequent visits have confirmed that current regulations are being observed and there have been no reported cases within GWTC allotments. Allotment holders are to be congratulated for their vigilance.

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer makes it clear that poultry and captive birds must remain under mandatory housing measures and be regularly disinfected, largely to mitigate against the risk of contagion from bird flu in the wild bird population. Any suspicions of cross contagion must be reported initially to GWTC.

Cockerels

A reminder that the keeping of cockerels is STRICTLY PROHIBITED by both GWTC and the National Allotment Association.

Anyone found to have Cockerels on their plot are in breach of their tenancy agreement.

If you have cockerel(s) on your plot, please remove them immediately as failure to do so may result in you being asked to leave the allotment site completely. GWTC reserves the right to withhold any future tenancy.

National Allotment Week 7th – 13th August

2023 marks the 21st year of National Allotment Week and this year the theme is **Soil Health**, highlighting an organic approach to cultivation.

The National Allotment Association maintains the belief that an allotment is mainly self-sustaining through allotment

produced compost and additional organic material such as farm yard manure. Chemical fertilisers have a role but should be applied only as balanced supplements. These can include: blood fish and bone, chicken pellets and general fertilizer, all derived from organic sources.



SPRING 2023

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Why have an allotment?



Having your own allotment is the best way to provide affordable, fresh, healthy fruit and vegetables for you and your family. The hot topic at the moment is to whether to produce them organically using the more traditional growing methods or inorganically using modern sophisticated chemicals.

On your allotment plot you have the choice and control over how you want to grow them. The important thing is to make a responsible and enlightened decision based upon all of the up-to-date information that is available – especially in respect to pest and disease control.

Registering Poultry with DEFRA



Compulsory Registration

You must register using the compulsory registration form within one month of keeping 50 or more birds on your allotment. You're breaking the law if you do not register. The law applies if you keep:

- 50 or more birds captive for any period of time
- flocks made up of different species, such as chickens, ducks or geese
- birds for: the consumption of meat and eggs; other commercial purposes; restocking game birds; or breeding for these 3 purposes

You'll need this information to complete the form:

- your contact details and details of the person or company that owns or rents your site
- your site's location and county parish holding (CPH) number - (find out how to get a permanent CPH number in England, Scotland and Wales)
- details of the birds you keep and how you farm them (species, number you usually keep, what you keep them for, your farming system)
- how many birds of each species you usually keep each month (your stocking arrangements)
- details of any businesses you supply with your poultry
- a list of other livestock you keep on the site

Voluntary registration

You can choose to register fewer than 50 birds, or birds you keep as pets. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) encourages you to register even if you do not have to by law.

By registering,

- APHA will be able to contact you if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area
- you'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect the national poultry flock

You'll need this information to complete the form:

- your contact details and contact details for the person or company that owns or rents your site
- the location where you keep poultry
- details of the bird you keep (species, number, and what you keep them for)

Contact

If you need help completing the forms, telephone the Great Britain (GB) Poultry Register helpline on **0800 634 1112**. Lines are open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. Email: Customer.Registration@apha.gov.uk

Allotment Rents

All tenants should have received their invoices for allotment rent for season 2023-2024. Rents are due on or before the 1st April 2023. Failure to pay by this date could result in your tenancy agreement being revoked and the plot being offered to the next person on the waiting list.

Allotment rents for 2023-2024 include a 5% increase on the 2022-2023 charge. The rent for 2024-2025 will remain the same.



Pollinators and your plot

Pollinating insects fertilise many crops, as well as other plants, trees and wild flowers. Gardens can act as vital refuges for pollinators, such as bumblebees, moths, butterflies, hoverflies, lacewings and honeybees, which are increasingly under threat from habitat loss, agricultural intensification and climate change.

Most of our food crops such as apples, pears, strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes and beans, as well as many wildflowers, need visits from insects to transfer the pollen between plants, leading to fertilisation and the production of seeds and fruits. The dependence on pollinators varies from crop to crop; runner beans have an 85% dependence, cucumbers 65% and fruits (apples, pears, plums) have been 65% and 85% dependence.

What can you do to play a part in the current efforts to halt this decline and maintain a healthy eco-system?

- ✓ Grow more early and late flowering, nectar and pollen-rich flowers
- ✓ Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects
- ✓ Think carefully about using pesticides as these also kill beneficial insects
- ✓ Create nesting boxes for solitary bees, lacewings, ladybirds, and providing somewhere for them to drink; a shallow bowl filled with pebbles is ideal
- ✓ Build an insect house with your children/grandchildren which is a great way of getting them involved and interested in the natural world.

Competition

King Charles III's coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey in London.

Why not join the rest of the Parish by decorating your allotment plot in mark of this occasion.

The winning plot holder will receive a prize.

Skips

Annual skips will continue to be provided for the benefit of allotment tenants. Whilst this has yet to be approved by GWTC, it is expected to place skips in early May, slightly later than in previous years.