

Welcome to your 2019 Allotment Newsletter

Get the best from your allotment!



Last Year's Allotment Winners

Following another successful inspection on Thursday 19th July 2018, the allotment competition winners were;

Oakenshaw

1st Prize	Mr & Mrs C Hales	Plot 48
Highly Commended	Mr & Mrs R Kitching	Plots 5 & 6
Highly Commended	Mr & Mrs C Marshall	
Plots 38 & 39		

Park Top

1st Prize	Mr J Beard	Plots 2 & 3
Best New Plot	Mr S Fieldhouse	Plot 1

Springfield

1st Prize	Mr I Joyner	Plot 18
Best New Plot	Mr J Conlon	Plot 28
Highly Commended	Mr J Blakey	Plot 4
Highly Commended	Mr B Cooper	Plot 19



1st Prize winners received a cheque for £25. Highly Commended and Best New Plot winners received a cheque for £20.

The areas we look at to decide winning plots are:

- A clean and tidy plot
- Little or no weeds
- The variety of vegetables grown
- Condition of pathways
- No pests, diseases or infestations

- The amount of cultivation
- Healthy bird husbandry
- Condition of sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels

This year's allotment winners will be awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

There will continue to be an award for Best New Plot.



Keep Yourself Up To Date

If there are any changes to your contact details, please could you inform us so that we can keep our records up to date. You can do this either by calling into the Town Council office at 67 High Street, Willington, via email to emma.mennouni@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone **01388 417725**.



Spring 2019

67 High Street, Willington, Co Durham. DL15 0PF
t: 01388 417725 e: gwtc@live.co.uk w: www.gwtc.co.uk



Allotment Inspections

Allotment Inspections will take place on Thursday 18th July 2019. Commencing at 9.45am at Oakenshaw, 10.45am at Park Top and 11.30 at Springfield.

All allotment winners will be notified in writing and invited to have their photograph taken receiving the award.

This is usually done at the next available Town Council Meeting.

Please note 50% of plots must be cultivated and maintained as stated in the Rules. Failure to do so, will result in additional rent being charged following the inspections.

Allotment Rents

All tenants should have received their invoices for allotment rent for season 2019-2020. Rents are due on or before the 1st April 2019. 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 were frozen for season 2019-2020. There is also no rent increase planned for 2020-2021.

Allotment Letting Policy Key Points

- Please note that we no longer accept joint tenancies within our parish but we can offer co-worker agreements.
- We maintain that we are only obliged to offer one garden per household.
- We have provided more robust guidelines on the keeping of poultry following recent bird health scares.
- We still operate a no cockerel rule.

Design a Scarecrow Competition

All allotment tenants are welcome to enter the Scarecrow Competition!

To participate, entrants must submit completed registration forms (included in this pack) and have their scarecrows on display by the required time.

- Minimum height of one meter
- All scarecrows must be built from scratch by the entrant (no commercial creations allowed)
- Creativity and originality – judges will be looking for scarecrows that impress, it may be the materials used, the way the scarecrow has been made, how the scarecrow is displayed, or simply a fantastic idea that catches the judges eye.

- You can use any materials you like to build your scarecrow, there are no restrictions – with just one exception: pre-moulded or commercially available face masks ARE NOT permitted.
- All Scarecrows must be made and displayed in good taste. Any entrant designing their scarecrow to cause deliberate offence will be disqualified.
- All scarecrows must be displayed on your plot and should be positioned so as it is unnecessary for anyone to access your plot in order to view them. They must also be secured in a manner that they will not blow away and will not otherwise be a danger to or possibly cause injury to anyone. Owners are held solely responsible for the safety and security of their scarecrow(s).



Finally... The most important rule: Make sure you enjoy yourselves!

- First Prize** £30
- Second Prize** £20
- Third Prize** £10

Judging will take place on Thursday 18th July 2019.



Water Use

The water supply is the responsibility of the council. If there is a water leak, please speak to your site representative.

If you are unable to do so, please contact the Council on 01388 417725 giving the name of the site, the location of the leak and its severity (is it a dripping tap, a steady flow or a gushing flood,

for example). Leaks are prioritised but we try to deal with serious leaks as soon as we can.

The allotment water supply is not to be used for washing household goods, bins, cars or for any personal or business activities.

You should not tap into the councils water supply. If you do so you will be charged for any damage.

Bonfires

Many plot holders have the occasional bonfire to dispose of garden waste.

They are usually an accepted and tolerated part of a garden or allotment, especially in the autumn.

However, the smoke and smell from bonfires can become a nuisance to your neighbours – both on adjacent plots and in nearby houses, schools or places of work etc.

It is the responsibility of each allotment tenant to ensure their bonfires are safe, necessary and do not cause problems for others. The use of Burning Bins are encouraged. Under no circumstances may you bring outside waste onto the site for burning.

Greater Willington Town Council also has a responsibility to ensure that neighbours and users of its land are not subjected to unreasonable nuisance.

Please show consideration to others.



Respect Your Boundaries

Please keep your fence line in a neat and tidy condition. Under no circumstances can you throw rubbish over the fence into the adjoining plots or surrounding fields.

Deposit Scheme

In order to provide new tenants with a clean and tidy allotment plot, the Town Council operate a £50.00 Deposit Scheme.

Deposits will be refunded on Termination of the Tenancy Agreement subject to the allotment plot being handed back to the Council in a clean, tidy and cultivated condition. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the deposit being used to restore the allotment plot so that is suitable for letting.

Notice to Quit

All allotment holders are unsecure tenants and are served a Notice to Quit for the following year on an annual basis. This means we are under no obligation to renew your tenancy if there are cultivation or management problems contained within the Allotments Lettings Policy.

National Allotment Week 2019 will run from 12th – 18th August.

