

Welcome to your 2020 Allotment Newsletter

Get the best from your allotment!



Last Year's Allotment Winners

Following another successful inspection on Thursday 18th July 2019, the allotment competition winners were;

Oakenshaw

1st Prize	Mr & Mrs D Berry	Plots 45 & 46
Highly Commended	Mr & Mrs R Kitching	Plots 5 & 6
Highly Commended	Mr J Zand	Plots 13 & 14
Highly Commended	Mr & Mrs C Hales	Plots 47 & 48

Park Top

1st Prize	Mr J Beard	Plots 2 & 3
Highly Commended	Mr S Fieldhouse	Plot 11

Springfield

1st Prize	Mr G.W. Sharp & Mr D Hagar	Plot 22
Highly Commended	Mr J Blakey	Plot 4
Highly Commended	Mr B Smith	Plot 14

1st Prize winners received a cheque for £25.

Highly Commended and Best New Plot winners received a cheque for £20.

National Allotment Week 2020

Did You Know!

National Allotments Week started in 2002 as a way of raising awareness of allotments and the role they play in helping people to live healthier lifestyles, grow their own food, develop friendships and bolster communities.

The campaign week is still thriving 13 years later and interest in growing your own fruit and vegetables has never been stronger since the WW2 Grow for Victory campaign.

National Allotment Week 2020 will run from 10th – 16th August 2020.

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 2020

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



Site security

Unfortunately allotment sites can sometimes suffer from crime and vandalism, it is important that we all work together to reduce the risk of this occurring.

Each allotment site is self-contained, without general public access. **Always ensure you close and lock the gates.** Keep the site secure as you would with your house, car or garden at home.

Park Top Allotments had the padlocks stolen from site therefore we have provided more secure padlocks and issued all tenants on site with a new key.

If you see anything out of the ordinary or something that doesn't look right, or anyone acting suspiciously, please ring 101 and inform the Town Council.

Tips for new plot holders

Make sure you have all the right tools – a basic tool kit would include items such as a spade, fork, trowel, hoe, watering can and secateurs, plus shears or a strimmer to keep your boundaries and paths tidy.



- **Section 2** – should be treated with fertilizer only and used for root crops (potatoes, carrots, turnips, beetroot and suede)
- **Section 3** – should be treated with manure or compost and used to grow peas, beans, onions, leeks, tomatoes, celery and courgettes as these crops require the richest ground to do well

Each year is different, many things have an effect on your planting from weather conditions, time availability, and just plain luck.

Happy gardening!



Each year the crops are moved on to the next section and in this way no crop will return to the same piece of ground for two years and each section will be manured every three years.

If you prefer to divide your plot into smaller sections, you can use a four year rotation. This is useful if you wish to grow more legumes and onions which take up more space than brassicas and potatoes.

Talk to your plot neighbours. They may well have some spare seedlings or plants to share with you.

Starting in spring means you can grow most things from seed, either directly in the soil as it warms, or by starting seeds in a greenhouse or on a windowsill. Most importantly, be prepared for a mixture of results, with amazing crops of some of your vegetables and disappointment with others in your plot.

Clear small sections at a time. Set up a compost heap as much of what you grow, and most annual weeds, can be composted to provide a rich mixture of nutrients for your plot, when they are rotted down.

Plan to rotate your crop by dividing your plot roughly into three sections, this will help to control certain pests and soil borne diseases which will build up in soil if the same crop is grown in the same area year in year out.

- **Section 1** – should be treated with fertilizer and lime and used to grow brassicas (cabbage, sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli)

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

Bonfires are sometimes the topic of conversation with neighbouring plot holders and also household properties close to the sites. 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 is 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 and be mindful to others.

Good Behaviour

The Town Council recognises that emotions often run high around allotment issues. We do expect each

tenant to treat his fellow gardeners with courtesy and respect at all times.

The Town Council employs two part time members of staff. Our staff are important to the organisation and we

value their wellbeing. We will not tolerate any form of staff abuse or intimidation towards them either on the Allotment sites or in the Council premises.

Allotment Inspections

Allotment Inspections will take place on Thursday 16th July 2020. 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 2020-2021. Rents are due on or before the 1st April 2020. 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, 2020-2021 and there is also no rent increase planned for 2021-2022.

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.

Waiting List

Plots are allocated from the waiting list to residents within the parish. If you refuse more than 2 offers of a plot you will be moved to the bottom of the list. We do not accept applications from residents outside of the Greater Willington Parish boundary.

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.

