

Broughton Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association



Broughton Allotments Welcomes You

Taking on a new allotment can be a daunting prospect.

Everyone seems to know what they are doing and how everything works around the plots, it seems – except you! But don't worry as help is at hand. Allotment holders are, on the whole, a friendly approachable lot who are willing to share advice, expertise, seeds, even plants & produce.

Here is a quick guide, produced by the **Broughton Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association** [hereafter written as, 'the Association'], to get you started and help you settle in...

Who's Responsible for what?

Broughton Town Council are the landlord in accordance with the tenancy agreement is issued to each plot holder annually around January. The Council are responsible for all aspects of site management.

The Association is a voluntary group made up of plot holders. Its primary role is to represent members in maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the Council and run a 'shop' of useful materials (eg membrane, canes, fertiliser, etc.) Any issues please contact a committee member.

Please take a look at our web site too, the conveniently memorable short url is,

bit.ly/broughtonplotsite

Use the links on the website for access to the Resource Centre (for Meeting Minutes, articles, etc.) as well as to the Message Board and Facebook Group (for news, chat, etc), and which covers most preferences for connecting & engaging with others.

What's expected from plot holders?

Your tenancy agreement sets out much of what you need to be aware of. Whilst you might feel you just want to work your plot, we are all part of a community and as such we ask that you be considerate to fellow plot-holders and Broughton residents neighbouring the site.

It is worth highlighting the following:

- Fires are only allowed between 1st October and 1st April and have sometimes caused complaints from local residents & our landlord. Please exercise care and caution and only light a fire when the wind will take the smoke over the fields not towards the primary school or neighbouring houses. Always stay on your plot whilst any fire is alight.
- Not surprisingly almost all plots practice organic growing. Weed killers may be used but again exercise great caution as you can easily damage your neighbour's plot/crops.
- Site security is occasionally a challenge with unwanted visitors and damage. Last person to leave must lock the gates regardless of time of day. Never assume others will do it.
- The padlock on the main gate needs to be 'locked on' at all times to prevent its theft and costly replacement.
- Whilst plot holders' dogs are allowed, they must be on a lead. We have occasional problems with dog mess.
- There is a surplus table outside the portacabin. Please feel free to help yourself to anything placed on this. Unless it is there for the Food Bank Collection.
- Free manure is delivered to the site every fortnight. It is dropped on the car parking area at the far end of the plots near plot 38 and also in front of the portacabin. We operate a 'first come first served' system so you must be quick! This is fresh manure so it shouldn't be dug into the soil but should be used as a mulch on the surface.
- At the first sign of a frost the taps are turned off and will then be turned back on again in the Spring.

Working your plot is important: little amounts of work, undertaken often will enable you to make the most of the plot and keep on top of mowing shared paths and keeping weeds under control. You also avoid the Council exercising its right to take the plot back.

Plot holder's family and friends are welcome on the site on the understanding they remain the responsibility of the plot holder and abide by the tenancy agreement and respect others.

Good sources of information

Books - The Half Hour Allotment by Lia Leendertz (RHS) Good for both newbies and more experienced.

Magazines - Kitchen Garden (monthly and comes with free packets of seeds).

...There is also a modest stock of gardening literature in the porta-cabin on plot 11B

TV - Gardeners World and Beechgrove, the latter often has pieces on allotments, etc.

Internet - jackwallington.com/category/allotment

- charlesdowding.co.uk – no dig organic gardening

Tips and suggestions for Newbies

Paths – as well as giving easier access around your plot they help to lessen growing area soil compaction & to maximise growing area can be quite narrow eg 40cm [16"].

Black plastic/membrane – covering up ground that isn't being cultivated over winter, stops those pesky weeds coming back and reduces leaching of nutrients in our lighter soil.

Make a plan – helps you be organised about what crop is going where. One approach is to split your plot into an area for permanents eg fruit bushes and 3 areas for the main crop groups: this aids crop rotation and limits pests.

Rotavating your whole plot might seem like an easy option, but any deep rooted weeds like twitch, just multiply if they are chopped into pieces.

A compost bin is a useful addition to your plot. Weeds, vegetable leaves, paper, cardboard and twigs can all be layered in it.

Hosepipes are *not* allowed so have a supply of watering cans.

Rainwater collection – plants do not actually like tap water, the rule of thumb if you must use it is to fill a container and let it stand for twenty-four hours so that the chlorine content dissipates. If you have any means of collecting & using rainwater, your plants will invariably show better results from it.

Protection - It's also important to protect your produce from pests. The birds love ripe fruit and young green plants! So cloche and netting are advised.

And finally...

...As a new allotment holder, the Association would like to offer you membership at £5 per annum and for an extra £3 you can join The National Allotment Association's Allotmenteer's public liability insurance scheme.

Here are the benefits of being a member:

- Regular updates to your email or our WhatsApp group, to keep you up to date with any news.
- Discounts on allotment items at Brigg Garden Centre (you need to show your membership card)
- Seeds at reduced prices
- Free seeds for competition growing.
- Bulk bought product price savings, e.g.

Garden canes (8ft) at £8 for 10.

Weed membrane at £2.25 a metre (7m for 6m full allotment width discount)

- Several social events throughout the year such as Open Days and BBQs.

Membership renewal is typically done at the AGM, which is usually around March or April time.

Above all else though, don't be afraid to ask others for advice. The allotment site is a peaceful haven where you can spend many happy hours away from the stresses of everyday life.

Happy growing!



Prepared by the Broughton Allotments & Leisure Gardeners Association.

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Contacts	
Broughton Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association	
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Committee Members	
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Secretary	Catherine Connah
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Minutes, Seeds and Food Bank	Dianne Woodward
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Opening Hours	
Monday: 10am to 12 noon	
Tuesday: 10am to 12 noon	
Wednesday: 10am to 12 noon	