

Welcome to your 2025 Allotment Newsletter



Allotment Reviews 2024

Following the successful reviews on Wednesday 14th August 2024 and Thursday 15th August 2024, the allotment competition winners were;



Oakenshaw

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| 1st Prize | Plots 5 & 6 - Mr & Mrs Kitching |
| Highly Commended | Plot 15 – Mr Allwright Plots 43 & 44 – Ms Golding |

Additionally, there was a consensus by a number of tenants of Oakenshaw, that Mr Kitching be awarded a further special award for his enthusiasm and dedication to allotmenting. Mr Kitching's wife, was presented with the award in the Council offices by the Mayor and allotment portfolio holders.

Springfield

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1st Prize | Plot 29 – Mr & Mrs Cowan |
| Highly Commended | Plot 22 – Mr Hagar Plot 3 – Mr Little |

Park Top

Due to the overall condition of the site, no awards were allocated this year.

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

Allotment Reviews 2025

Allotment reviews will coincide with National Allotment Week 2025. A judging panel will have been appointed and will visit the sites as follows;

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|-------------|--|
| Oakenshaw | Wednesday 13th August 2025 at 10.00am |
| Park Top | Thursday 14th August 2025 at 10am |
| Springfield | Thursday 14th August 2025 at 10.45am |

All allotment winners will be notified in writing and invited to have their photograph taken at their allotment plot receiving their awards.

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 reviews.



National Allotment Week 11th – 17th August

This year's theme, Allotments and Wellbeing, emphasises how allotments help boost physical, mental, and nutritional health. This will show the essential role of allotments in promoting mental, physical, nutritional, and social well-being by strengthening community ties and enhancing overall health.

Health and well-being, inclusivity and accessibility are fundamental to encourage use by the wider community and GWTC is committed to this across its sites.

Key Objectives of National Allotments Week:

- Promote Healthy Living:**
Allotments empower individuals to embrace healthier lifestyles by growing fresh, nutritious produce and engaging in physical activity.
- Champion Sustainability:**
Encouraging homegrown food reduces food miles, waste, and reliance on plastic packaging, supporting an eco-friendlier way of life.
- Strengthen Communities:**
Allotments bring people together, creating spaces where diverse groups can bond over shared goals, gardening tips, and harvest celebrations.
- Educate and Inspire:**
By sharing stories of allotment success, the event inspires more people to explore the joys of allotment gardening and sustainable living.
- Raise Awareness and Preservation:**
Promote allotments to those who may not know about them, while encouraging efforts to preserve and maintain these vital community resources.

Raised Beds and No Dig Campaign

Growing crops in raised beds is very popular and can help to contain the growing area and divide the plot up, making maintenance easier.

They warm up faster in the spring, enabling earlier planting and a longer growing season. They are then capable of getting too warm and well drained in summer. Plus, they can cool down much slower in winter.

They can easily be covered with mesh, polytunnels and glass to promote growing conditions and crop protection.

What should you put in the bottom of the raised beds;

Soil: The most common choice is to fill the entire bed with high-quality garden soil or a mix of soil and compost.

Cardboard or Newspaper: Placing a layer of cardboard or several sheets of newspaper at the bottom can help suppress weeds and prevent grass from growing into the bed. Commonly called 'lasagna gardening'.

Before you add raised beds to your garden, there are a few things to consider:

Aspect and orientation - most fruit, vegetables and cut flowers need full sun, so position beds in the south- or west-facing parts of your garden, away from the shade of overhanging trees. Run long beds north to south for even sunlight levels

Size - long runs of beds can be inconvenient to manage, so opt for multiple smaller beds. Widths of less than 1.5m (5ft) should allow you to easily reach the centre without having to stand on the soil



Depth - 30cm (1ft) is deep enough for dwarf bulbs, salad leaves and strawberries, but most plants, especially fruit bushes, shrubs and small trees, need 45cm (18in) or more.

Pathways - aim to make paths between beds at least 45cm (18in) wide to accommodate a wheelbarrow, and at least 1m (3½ft) for a wheelchair, if needed.

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 as failure to do so may result in you being asked to leave the allotment site completely.

GWTC reserves the right to withhold or revoke any tenancy.

Seed Sharing Scheme

GWTC will be exploring the possibility of a plan to buy seeds if there is sufficient interest. We are also looking to introduce a sharing scheme across the allotment sites so that tenants can share their own seeds with other tenants.

Allotment Rents

All tenants should have received their invoices for allotment rent. All tenants should have received their invoices for allotment rent for season 2025-2026 with this newsletter. Rents are due on or before the 1st May 2025. 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 2026-2027 will not be increased.

Skips

Annual skips will continue to be provided for the benefit of allotment tenants. These will be on site on Saturday 5th April 2025.

Tenancy Agreement and Allotment Letting Policy

When you took on the plot, you should have signed a tenancy agreement and the Lettings Policy. This will give you certain rights but also some responsibilities. You are legally bound to maintain the plot in a reasonable condition and to maintain a minimum of 50% cultivated.

To avoid being given notice to quit just as your first crop of runner beans is appearing, please check your tenancy agreement and lettings policy carefully to find out what you can and can't do. If you have misplaced your Lettings Policy, email emma@gwtc.co.uk for another copy.

Security

There have been a number of break ins reported so please ensure all tenants are following the regulations and locking gates. The allotments are for ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ONLY and not a walk through for people walking dogs etc. If you have been the victim of a break in, please report the matter to the Police and let the Town Council know so they can keep a record.

All Year Round Growing - The key to successful allotmenteeing

Winter cropping: Main crop potatoes harvested in September/October, cabbages, red cabbage, sprouts including red sprouts, leeks, kales, curly kale, red kale, parsnips, celeriac, late carrots, late charlottes potatoes planted in April/May ready for 'Christmas' - broad beans sown in October/November. Many vegetables are for winter harvesting and should be encouraged.

Crops can be encouraged through the use of 'hot beds', an old gardeners trick, choosing the right types of hardy strains, mesh protection, maximise year growing capacity

