



# Chilton Allotment News



Edition 1–Spring 2023

Welcome to our first Chilton Allotments newsletter. If you are a tenant on one of our allotments, we may be asking for your help. If you are not, this may be your opportunity to see what we have to offer in

We have 3 areas across Chilton:

**West Chilton Terrace**—split across 2 sites on either side of the by-pass

**Hambleton Way**—these allotments are on either side of 'Joe's Field'.

**Prospect Terrace**—as the name suggests these are adjacent to Prospect Terrace

## CAN YOU HELP?

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

If you are a current allotment tenant we need your help. We would like a representative on each site to liaise with the Town Council on allotment issues, keep

the noticeboards up to date, pass information to other tenants and who can also be a source of support for tenants on the site. Help to positively promote our allotments and strive for improvement

Where the Town Council manages the site, we don't have the gardening knowledge of our tenants, and we could do with some!

If you feel this could be you, please contact Anne Hall at the Town Council offices for more information (contact details below).

**Meetings**—Allotment Committee meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 10.30am in Hutton House (Town Council Offices). The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th February 2023.



## Stop Vandalism, Report It



Sadly, there has been a spate of vandalism at some of the allotment sites. We take these incidents very seriously, even if we are not in a position to resolve the damage, so always report vandalism to us and to the police. Email [info@chiltondurham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@chiltondurham-tc.gov.uk) with the details, including the time frame in which it happened and the damage caused, or phone us on 01388 721788. If you ever see a crime taking place, report it to the police straight away by calling 101 or in an emergency 999.

### Golden rules

- If your allotment site has a gate, always CLOSE or LOCK it when you arrive and leave.
- Be a good neighbour and look out for unfamiliar people around the allotment site.
- Get to know the other allotment holders.
- Do not keep expensive tools and power tools on site. If you do need to store them in your allotment shed, keep them out of sight.

### Security tips

- Replace the glass in your shed or cold frame with clear acrylic sheets (often known by the brand name Plexiglass). Acrylic is stronger and lighter than glass.
- Remove or cover material that could be tempting to a would-be firestarter, such as piles of dry branches, wood or clippings.
- Think about the security of your shed or tool store. If you have a flimsy lock, consider replacing it with a more substantial one attached to a robust mount or a hasp and staple fitting.
- Replace wood screws with carriage bolts which cannot be unscrewed.

That said, a thief who comes prepared may get through these so an alternative is not to lock your shed and avoid keeping anything of any value in it. That way, your shed is less likely to sustain any damage should you have an intruder.





As a council, we subscribe to the National Allotment Society, as part of this membership we have access to a number of benefits, including a Quarterly magazine. We are going to make these magazines available to allotment holders and try to create a small library of allotment flyers, leaflets and information. Watch this space for more information.

Also as part of this membership, we have access to lots of information and leaflets:

- Planning out and designing an allotment
- What can your plot do for wildlife?
- Why make compost?
- Clearing an overgrown plot
- Keeping hens and rabbits on allotments

... and much more, if you have a question, I'm sure the National Allotment Society has a leaflet or other information available. Give us a ring with any query and we will see what we can do.

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN OUR NEWSLETTER?



If you have an article you think would be interesting for other allotment holders send it in to us. Have you had a successful crop, tried something different that has worked, growing tips, and more. The list is endless.

Eventually we would like to hold competitions for allotment holders.

Do you have any recipes using what you grow. Send the recipe to us, take a photograph of the finished meal.

We are excited to start this project but would be even more excited for allotment holders to be involved.

Contact Anne at [info@chiltdurham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@chiltdurham-tc.gov.uk)



### CULTIVATION

We too often see plots that have been left with no cultivation. Please ensure that you are working your plots regularly so they don't get overgrown/out of hand.

It is appreciated that gardeners all have their own way of doing things when it comes to planting and maintaining their plots. However, please remember that plots are for cultivation and enjoyment, not somewhere that should be left to fend for itself and become unruly.

Allotments are NOT to be used for the storing of rubbish and waste products and not to be used for business purposes. Chilton Town Council are very keen to support gardeners in achieving high levels of cultivation in a safe high quality environment.

