



Cilton Allotment News



Edition 4– October 2023

And just like that, Summer is over. Once we get to October, the nights are drawing in and the temperature drops. However, I'm sure you all keep working very hard in your allotments, getting as much done as possible while it's light. Remember the clocks go back an hour at the end of this month.

We have 3 areas across Cilton:

West Cilton 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

Halloween is approaching, the children love making pumpkin or turnip lanterns.



Allotment Meetings for 2023:

Meetings are held on 3rd Monday of each month at 10.30am in the Town Council offices. Everyone is welcome, come along and see what's happening.

Please note there is a limit of 20 minutes for public participation in meetings and it is to raise issues / comment on items on the agenda and not for debates to take place. Members will then take the issues / comments into consideration when discussing that item on the agenda.

Minutes from meetings are available from our website.

16th October 2023
20th November 2023
18th December 2023



Allotment Library

We are gathering quite a lot of information about allotments, handy tips and advice on what to grow, when to grow, how to deal with an overgrown allotment, water collecting and much, much more.

We probably won't have all of the answers but if you're new to allotments, ask your questions, we may have a leaflet or a magazine to help you.



The National Allotment Society offers different types of membership with some great benefits for each type. Individual members can get free Allotmenters' Liability insurance, gardening advice, discounted seeds, discounted will writing services, initial legal advice on tenancy agreement and areas of law affecting allotments and a free quarterly magazine and e-newsletter. Check out their website [The National Allotment Society – National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd \(nsalg.org.uk\)](http://The National Allotment Society – National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd (nsalg.org.uk)) for more information.

What we have done....

- Clearing of empty plots
- Replacing a gate and fencing that has been damaged.

Work ongoing...

- Looking at recycling scheme
- Looking at funding opportunities to complete fencing work on West Chilton Terrace



Allotment Recipe

Beetroot Brownies

- 2-3 Medium size beetroot, cooked, peeled and chopped
- 60g Cocoa powder
- 3 Eggs
- 100g Self-raising flour (white or wholemeal)
- 1 tbsp. Olive oil
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 75g Dark chocolate (chopped)
- 1tsp of bicarbonate of sode
- 100g chopped dates
- Cup of water

1. Pre-heat your oven to 180c
2. Grease or line a rectangular or square tin with greaseproof baking paper.
3. Mix the beetroot, eggs, cocoa powder, oil and dates in a bowl or a food mixer.
4. Add the flour, cinnamon, bicarbonate of soda and blend until mixed well and combined.
5. Add water if needed, stir in the chocolate.
6. Add the mixture to the tin and spread out evenly.
7. Bake for approx. 20 mins until the mix has risen and firm/bouncy to touch.
8. Cut into portion sizes when cooled and serve with cream, ice cream or a healthier option of Greek / plain yoghurt.

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@chiltondurham-tc.gov.uk or call 01388 721788



Protecting your Allotment



Sadly, we are all too aware of vandalism and break-ins on the allotment sites. We take these incidents very seriously, even if we are not in a position to resolve the damage, so always report anti-social behaviour, vandalism and theft to the police, if they don't know about issues they can't deal with them. We also ask that you let us know by emailing info@chiltondurham-tc.gov.uk with the details, include the time frame in which it happened and the damage caused and include photographs if possible. 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. Make sure you keep an inventory of the equipment you keep in your shed, including serial numbers and take photographs. Security mark any equipment for identification purposes.

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.

Have you considered allotment insurance, it could give you more peace of mind.