

## **Hummersknott Gardeners' Allotment Welcome Pack**

**Welcome to our allotments.** They are self managed by the committee on behalf of plot holders, leased from Darlington Borough Council. The present lease expires on 30-Sep-2035. The land is ultimately designated as an extension to West Cemetery.

The Association holds public liability insurance & employer insurance.

We do not have personal insurance or insurance for any equipment kept on the allotments.

### **The Committee**

Chairman	Malcolm Harding	Members	Catherine Boggon
Treasurer	David Noddings		Alan Jones
Secretary	Vanessa Hilton		
Lettings	Robert Watson		

### **Rules and Policies**

Please read and adhere to these.

**Here's some general points we hope are helpful in enjoying your allotment.**

#### **Site Layout**

Plots are identified by a plate on a post adjacent to entrance of each plot. [Row # - Plot#]

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Yearly, generally in March, members and buddies are eligible to attend. Only members who have paid rent can vote.

#### **Keys to Entrance Gates**

Deposit £15 for each. Refundable when returned to the Treasurer and a plot is vacated.

#### **Vehicles**

Please only leave in designated areas, minimising parking on access routes to loading. The speed limit is 5mph.

#### **Children**

Are very welcome on our site, to ensure safety they need to be supervised at all times.

Hazards include vehicles, open areas of water and sharp objects.

#### **Dogs**

Welcome, but must be on a lead or kept enclosed in your plot. Please clean up after them.

#### **Toilet**

Our composting toilet is situated between lane 1 and 2. The key hangs just inside the door of the adjacent polytunnel. You **MUST** sit to use the toilet and return the key when you're done!

#### **Polytunnels & Greenhouse**

There are two polytunnels and a greenhouse on site for use by all plot holders. Plot holders must clearly identify all their plants, seeds etc. with their name, row and plot number. Please keep these areas clean and clear away any debris. There may be occasions when these need to be vacated for maintenance and events, the committee will give as much notice as possible.

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## **Seeds**

Are available through Dobies with fantastic discount. Catalogues are available each year. Plot holders can purchase from the catalogue or online using the appropriate reference number. Our discount depends on the value of orders, so it is in all our interests to use this service. We have also had seed swap opportunities for people to swap saved or unwanted seed.

## **Leaf Mould and Woodchip Bins**

Free, periodically restocked. Leaves stocked in Autumn are best used from Spring onwards.

## **Water**

Taps are located around the site. The water is off from 1st November until 31st March depending on weather conditions. Members will be notified of variations.

The water provision is not drinking water, do not drink unless you boil it first.

The water is on a metered supply, so use hoses and sprinklers sparingly, don't leave them unattended. Prioritise using gathered water from sheds & greenhouses into water butts.

## **Fires**

Banned 30<sup>th</sup> June - 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Never burn carpets, Teflon or other plastics, used motor oil and rubber as these are some of the worst items to burn in terms of toxic emissions.

Only light fires if the wind is blowing away from the houses, aim to cause the least inconvenience to the surrounding community. Be prepared to put it out if the wind changes.

Fires must be monitored closely, don't leave unattended.

What can't be burnt is your responsibility to dispose of responsibly off site.

## **Flooding**

All plots are prone to flooding. Grass footpaths become very slippery when wet.

## **Grass Cutting**

A contractor appointed by the committee has access to cut the grass.

## **Work on Site**

Work to roads and footpaths will happen as required by contractors or a volunteer work party of members. If you can help your assistance would be appreciated, please let us know.

## **Bees**

We have an apiary. Contact Malcolm Harding (Chairman) if you want space to keep bees.

## **Hedges**

Should be cut back to the boundary line and kept tidy.

## **General Rubbish**

Store in a secure location and remove from site so it is not blown around in windy conditions.

## **Barbed Wire**

Do not use any. If barbed wire exists on your plot please remove it.

## **Brambles**

These should be pruned and tied back. Any growth onto roads or footpaths is not permitted.

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## Asbestos

If you suspect any historic asbestos on site advise the committee who will arrange removal.

## Glass

Glass has been used on site, you may find it when clearing or digging. Take it home to recycle.

## Hygiene

Our allotments have existed for years we cannot guarantee the soil composition and with resident vermin hygiene is important, we recommend wearing gloves and washing hands.

## Coffee Mornings & Events

Look out for these in the diary, emails and the unofficial Facebook group.

## Social Media

There is an unofficial Facebook group @Hgapondfield, our community can find it helpful to share tips, pictures and even give away or advertise equipment. Membership requests require your row and plot number. It is not committee run and not covered by our privacy notice.

## Allotment Supplies

*Smithfield Allotment Shop* - compost and much more

Smithfield Road near the railway bridge. Sundays 10am - 12pm.

*Sam Turner & Sons Ltd.* - farm & garden supplies, can deliver to site. Piercebridge. DL23TS

Monday - Saturday: 8am - 5pm Sunday: 10am - 4pm. Tel. (01325) 374 423

Free manure for collection. A67 near Gainford. phone to arrange (01325) 730772

## Map

