



DYNEVER GARDENING ASSOCIATION USEFUL INFORMATION FOR ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

Welcome to Dynevor Gardening Association; we hope you will enjoy allotment gardening. These notes will help you 'find your way' around the plot.

When you take on your plot, you will sign a Rental Contract. Your rental is payable annually early in the year (usually at the February AGM) but no later than the end of March. You will also be asked to pay a membership fee at the same time as the rent, which gives you many benefits –

- Affiliation to the National Allotment Society, which gives insurance cover for the site, legal advice, quarterly magazines
- Discounted seeds from the Kings Seeds scheme
- Use of communal equipment, such as mowers, rotavator, wheelbarrows etc.

During the first term of your tenancy, you will be expected to cultivate the majority of your plot within the first six months. If you run into difficulties, please let a member of the Committee know as soon as possible.

If you are new to allotmenting, there are plenty of experienced plot holders who will be pleased to help you with good advice.

GATES AND LOCKS

The entrance gate to the allotments is secured by a combination lock. This lock has a button on the base which should be pressed once the correct combination has been selected. After locking, the combination should be scrambled to secure it.

The first person unlocking the gate should scramble the combination and hang the lock on the left-hand container (as you enter the plot) on the hook alongside the bell. The last person to leave then locks the gate behind them (having first checked that there is nobody left on site by ringing the bell on the container).

TRADING POST

There is a 'Trading Post' table alongside the container/water tank near the entrance; this is used for surplus plants, seeds, and anything garden related. It's on a 'first come first served' basis; any items donated and not taken should be removed after a reasonable time (a week or two).

WATER SUPPLY

All plot holders are encouraged to keep a water barrel or water butt on their plot to collect rainwater and minimise mains water usage.

There is a large 'dipping' tank supplied by mains water near the main entrance gate as well as two tanks at the far side of the site at the end of the main paths. There are several large water containers (IBCs) that collect water from the roof of the Cricket Club shelter near the entrance, and several others sited around the plot; this water should be used first, again to minimise mains water usage.

Do not contaminate the water tanks/troughs by washing tools or produce etc, but use the alternative facilities provided.

SEEDS

In the Autumn the Kings Seed catalogue is published, offering a good range of vegetable and flower seeds and garden sundries at discounted prices. All members can order online direct from Kings (login and webpage distributed annually).

FERTILISER

Many people arrange for a delivery of (farmyard) manure, and local information is often posted on the notice board. All manure deliveries must be to the designated area inside the gate alongside the container.

FIRST AID KIT

A First Aid kit is available in the green container to the right of the entrance (as you enter). Contents are checked and replaced on a regular basis.

ACTION DAYS

Action Days are held several times throughout the year, with the aim of maintaining and tidying the site for the benefit of all.

Examples have involved the clearing of rubbish in preparation for rabbit proof fencing and the clearing of an overgrown (vacant) plot. This is a good way of getting to know your fellow allotmenters and is usually good fun, so it is worth making an effort to attend – and of course many hands make light work.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

There are several events organised during the year; for instance Summer BBQ, Skittles, and our annual Open Day. There is also an annual plot competition.

CONTAINERS AND EQUIPMENT

There are two containers on site, just inside the main gate – both are locked with a padlock and one key fits both locks.

The right-hand container contains equipment such as the mower and rotavator as well as the petrol supplies.

Before using any of the communal equipment, please ensure that you have undergone familiarisation/ training. Also check oil and fuel levels before use.

Anyone using either the mower or rotavator should sign/date in the book provided, which hangs on a hook on the right-hand side. Any queries regarding the machinery and petrol, contact the Committee.

The left-hand container is available for the general storage of tools (for those without storage on their plot) fertiliser etc.

MOWING, TIDINESS AND WEED CONTROL

The paths adjacent to your plot comprise part of your plot and it is your responsibility to keep the paths tidy and closely mown.

Please consider your neighbouring plot holders, particularly when it comes to weed control, and airborne diseases such as blight, and keep your plot in good order.

If you want to cover your plot (eg over winter) please do not use carpet, but a suitable tarpaulin or membrane.

Please take all your rubbish home and do not dump on site – compost and recycle whenever possible.

Bonfires are permitted but please consider Recreation ground users and other allotmenters before lighting.

FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND DOGS

Families and children are welcome on site, but parents should be mindful of potential dangers such as sharp tools, etc and not leave children unsupervised. Under no circumstances are children permitted to use any of the allotment machinery.

Dogs are allowed on site but must be kept under controls. Owners must clear up after their dog and take 'poo bags' off site for disposal.

VEHICLE ACCESS

Vehicles are not permitted on the plot.

*Further information and updates are available on the allotment website
(<http://dynevorgardening.wordpress.com/>)*

For official rules and regulations, please refer to the Dynevor Gardening Association Allotment Rules Schedule.