

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

## Allotments Update

Welcome to Issue 5 of the Allotment Update Newsletter which has been included with your Annual Tenancy pack. If you have any queries please get in touch.

Kindest regards  
Town Council Team

Congratulations to all of the winners of the Best Allotment or Best Newcomer awards. Here are 3 of the winners being presented with their trophies and vouchers from the Chair of Allotment Committee Cllr Michael Siddle.

## 2024 Winners

Edge Hill - Jonathon Hopper  
Pollards - Geoff Matthews  
South Church - Pat Potter & Dave Trotter  
Tindale Crescent - David Williamson  
Woodhouse Close - Allan Ornsby



Allotment tenants at the coffee and chat evening



Secretary of Pollards Allotments accepting award on behalf of winner



Jonathon and son James accepting award from Cllr Siddle

Thank you to those who attended our coffee and catch up in September. We found them very useful and we hope you did too.

## New Requirements

It is your responsibility to ensure you are not breaking the law.

[Register to keep any birds](#) (previously 50 or more) by 1st Oct 2024.

By registering, keepers will receive important updates relevant to them such as outbreaks and biosecurity rules. This will help manage potential disease outbreaks and limit the spread.

Contact us:

Tel: 01388 207110 [allotments@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk)  
Let us know about broken taps or any issues you may have.



# Site Maintenance & Development

Site maintenance plans are in place for all sites, however funds are not limitless. From time to time things crop up and need to be addressed and this may stop another development taking place.

At the end of 2023 a fire took hold at an allotment at Mill Race. This left 7 Sycamore, 4 Ash and 1 Hawthorn tree severely scorched from the blaze.

This plot is along the public walkway of Bridge Road (opposite the Rugby Club).

A tree survey needed to be carried out and it was deemed the trees needed to be removed for safety reasons. Asbestos sheets had also been fly tipped on the site along with other materials. To ensure the site was secure and wasn't continually used for flytipping or for Anti-social behaviour a new gate and fence needed to be put in place as quickly as possible. All these essential repairs have cost a huge amount of money to the Town Council.

## ANNUAL INSPECTIONS 2024

Thank you to the tenants who met us on site for the annual inspections.

It is always really good to speak to everyone and get feedback on plots, the site and general issues.

If you have any queries regarding your plot please get in touch.

Whilst the majority of tenants enjoy their plots and the social aspect of the allotments a number of warning letters has to be issued as the plots did not adhere to the Town Council Rules and Regulations. This was very disappointing. Please be reminded if you are struggling to maintain your plot and need help or support please ask your association or contact the council. We may be able to help or put you in touch with a volunteer who is keen to help.

### Dates for the Diary

**1st Oct 2024**

Registration of all birds due by today

**7th Nov 2024**

Deadline for Tenancy documents and payments to be returned.

**29th Nov - 8th Dec 2024**

Bishop Auckland Christmas Town in Market Place Bishop Auckland festive Family Fun

**5th December 2024**

Coffee and Catch up at Town Council office 5.30pm-7pm

## What does my allotment mean to me?

#allotmentlife #sunsenergytransfer

Oh, where do I begin ? ☀️🌧️🌦️ come rain or shine there is always something to be done. Digging, weeding, planting, picking, pricking, pruning, composting, creating, talking, laughing, sharing, learning, the list is endless, and it's all been embraced.

I joined the list in early 2020, maybe on a whim with lockdown ? and time on my hands to think about things I would like. By early 2021 I visited a potential plot. It wasn't much, not a full half, it was a dumping ground, full of baths, bags and tubs of rubbish, overgrown and rather unloved. However, I knew instantly I could put my stamp on it. The whole family joined in to clear and dig it and my young grandsons threw themselves in and took part responsibility of our plot.

Once cleared, first job, a bug hotel, closely followed by dividing the plot for individual planting areas. Many of the surrounding plot holders gave assistance and knowledge and by May 2021 it was all ready to show us what it could give us in terms of health, happiness, community, friendships and the added bonus of home grown organic produce. Over the past 3 years (feels like many more) #allotment life has evolved. We have more space now and our spaces are unique. A bee plot, a butterfly plot and a ladybird plot. Each plot as quirky as the other and all bring great joy. It's used 12 months a year, veg grown undercover during the winter months and brews made in the shed to keep us warm whilst working. Seats have been made for around the shed for family and allotment friends to sit and chat whilst having a tea, coffee, bovril or hot chocolate.

Winter work for the past 2 years has been to create as many places as possible to collect rain water and currently we have capacity to collect and store 2000 ltrs , whilst still looking to collect more 🌧️ to aid the environment.

Our spaces are informative and colourful having added our stamp to the plots. They bring so much joy to myself and the family. Growing for multiple households and the wider community as this year we have enough to donate to the local food bank too.

Spreading the love of the best hobby and #flowerwars a dabble into the competitive side of allotmenting is the perfect pre-retirement activity and i would fully recommend to anyone thinking about it to give it a go.

Allotmenting has enriched our lives and with it we have gained a lovely circle of friendships which now go beyond the allotment gate. 😊

Alison Foster, Pollards Allotment Tenant