

SEAFORD ALLOTMENT & LEISURE GARDENS SOCIETY

www.salgs.co.uk

Welcome to Seaford Allotments

We are sure you will find that with hard work and enthusiasm your plot will produce plenty of fruit and vegetables during the whole year. The plot holders around you will have a wealth of experience so do take advantage of their knowledge to find out which fruit and vegetables grow best on Seaford allotments.

You are now a proud tenant of a plot on our communal site, and as a result the management of your plot directly affects your neighbours. The Committee requires therefore that:

In the event of illness or any other reason why your plot cannot be maintained please inform the plot Supervisor without delay.



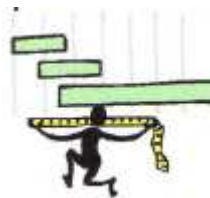
All plot holders must keep the grass cut, and the edges straight, on the half of the paths next to their plot.

Occasionally contractors employed by the Town Council cut the grass on the main paths, but that's a bonus and doesn't reduce the plot holder's responsibility. You must also ensure the paths which surround your plot, are free from all obstructions and that your crops don't flop across the paths.



When you take on your plot, it may well be overgrown, but don't give up. The priority is to clear it of perennial weeds by strimming: digging and/or sheet mulching.

Divide the plot into sections and work on one section at a time and in a few weeks you will have completed the task.



Your plot is measured in rods, which is a traditional measurement and is the total square yardage divided by 30.25. The size of the plot includes half the width of the surrounding path, the upkeep of which is your responsibility.



We ask that you cultivate a minimum of a quarter of the plot in the first 3 months; half in the first 6 months, and three quarters in the first 12 months. Thereafter, the whole plot should be cultivated.

Please note that:

Plot monitoring takes place throughout the growing season by members of the committee. This is to ensure that plots are kept up to a reasonable standard.

If your plot is overgrown and looks uncultivated the Plot Supervisor will write to you giving you time to bring the plot up to an acceptable standard. If this is not done, you may well be evicted. Of course difficult circumstances, temporary illness or incapacity will be taken into account. Please do let the Plot Supervisor know as soon as possible if this is the case.



We estimate that you will need to spend at least 4 hours a week on your plot once it is fully cultivated to keep it under control, and much more in the peak of the sowing and growing season. Watering and harvesting can be very time consuming and in the summer you may need to visit the plot every other day.



The Committee is made up of 10 volunteer plot holders who are elected at the AGM.

All plot holders are invited to attend. We have a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Plot Supervisor, New Members' Officer, Site Security Officer, Distribution Hut Manager, and 3 other Committee members.

Together the Committee manages the site on a day to day basis under the terms of the self-management agreement with Seaford Town Council. If anyone would like to stand on the Committee, they need to be nominated by another plot holder.

Forms for this are sent out prior to the AGM. Contact details for members of the Committee are on the Notice board.



The Distribution Hut where you can buy a selection of popular seeds and a wide range of gardening sundries is situated by the main entrance in Sutton Drove. The opening hours vary according to the growing season; details can be found on Notice Board outside the Hut.



Notice Boards

There are 3 notice boards, by the entrance gates at Hindover Twitten, Short Brow, and a large one on the Distribution Hut which displays the site plan and any garden related items for sale. Information is posted on the Notice Boards, Gates and Website, or sent by post for important things such as notification of the AGM.

If you have an e-mail address, please let us know so that we can inform you of any important information. Please notify us if any of your details including your e-mail address change.



We charge a £10 deposit for a Site key and this will be refunded when you hand it back after giving up your plot.



NB: the key cannot be retracted when the padlock is open.

You may have an additional key if someone else will be helping you on your plot at an extra cost of £10. Please advise a member of the Committee if you have someone looking after your plot temporarily during holidays or illness.



A copy of our Health & Safety Risk Assessment Statement for the site can be found on our Website and in the Distribution Hut. While it is largely "common sense", we encourage you to read it to minimise the risks inherent in working on the allotment.

We have a lovely site which is generally well kept. However, there are some pathways which are uneven, especially on the sloping side of the site. It is the responsibility of plot holders to keep the paths adjoining their plot in good condition.

Please make sure you have no broken glass or other hazardous materials projecting onto the path which could cause an injury.

All sheds must be erected at least one metre from plot boundary.

All sheds and other structures must be secured against high winds which can affect the Site at any time of the year. Keep any chemicals securely locked away.



Our peaceful site is surrounded by residents who wish to enjoy their gardens as much as we do at weekends. So we ask that petrol lawnmowers, strimmers or other noisy equipment are not used until after 9am on Sundays.



Well behaved children are welcome to help you on your plot, but they are your responsibility and must remain with you at all times. Please make sure they don't wander on to other people's plots. The Site is not a playground and also there may be hazards that are not immediately obvious. Please keep dogs on a lead.



There is parking to the front of the Sutton Drove entrance. Please park "end on" and economically so as many people as possible can fit in. You are welcome to bring your car on to the Site but only to drop off heavy items. Please drive carefully and do not park on the main drive or in the turning points, they must be left clear for other plot holders to use.



As SALGS is a member of the National Association of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners, our members can take advantage of the arrangement with Kings Seeds, to buy seeds at much reduced prices. The special catalogue is available during August and your order must be submitted to us by October. Your order will be available for you to collect from the Distribution Hut in the autumn. Potato tubers and onion sets arrive later on in the winter.



There is a chemical toilet behind the distribution Hut for plot holders to use. It is not locked and is regularly cleaned by the service company, but please leave it clean and tidy for the next user.



We usually have a stall at the Horticultural Show. We hope that all plot holders will donate produce for us to sell. Preserves, vegetables, fruit, flowers and plants are welcome to help raise funds to improve and maintain the Site for everyone.



On the back of your SALGS membership card is a loyalty card for use at Paradise Park. With each £10 spend on qualifying items you will receive a £1 plant voucher and reduced admission rate to their attractions. (The Terms are set by the Company).



*There are, a number of water tanks on the Site fed from the mains: see the site Plan. **WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THE WATER WHICH IS USED** so we encourage plot holders to have water butts fitted to their sheds. The use of mulching also helps to reduce the need for watering. You must not connect a hosepipe to the tanks.*



You must dispose of your own rubbish or take it to the household waste facility. Please do not leave it around the Site. We recommend that you set up 2 compost bins, one for perennial weeds and the other for vegetative waste.



We discourage the use of bonfires as they can be a nuisance to neighbours and other plot holders. If you have no alternative, make sure the material is dry to reduce the amount of smoke and ensure no plastic or other inorganic materials or chemicals are burned.

Lewes District Council's web site www.lewes.gov.uk provides further information about bonfires.



Slugs snails, flea beetle, black fly etc. are inevitable on the allotments. We don't have a policy against using non-organic pesticides and herbicides, but there are many plot holders who don't wish to use chemicals on their plots. So if you do spray or treat your crops chemically please consider your neighbours and choose a calm day to avoid contamination of other plots.



You are welcome to have manure, mushroom compost or wood chippings delivered, but if it is left by the entrance gate or near the main path, you must move it quickly so that it

doesn't cause a nuisance to other plot holders.

It is worth checking with your supplier that the manure is free from the hormone weed killer Aminopyralid, or test it by growing a patch of quick growing green manure such as mustard seed on a sample of the manure. If the leaves do not turn yellow or become distorted then it should be safe to use.



Structures such as sheds & greenhouses should be no bigger than 2.5mx2mx2.5m high (8ftx6ftx8ft high). Polytunnels must not exceed 3mx2m (9ftx6ft). This is set under the agreement with Seaford Town Council. They should be placed about 1 metre from any path or boundary to enable people and mowers to pass by.



We are privileged to have slow worms on our site. These legless lizards are protected by law and love places like compost bins. They eat copious amounts of slugs and other pests, so give them a warm welcome if you have them on your plot.



On the whole the Site has only had few incidences of vandalism. There have been several instances of theft and greenhouse glass broken. The Community Support Officers regularly visit the Site on their patrols and we ask that you be vigilant and do not allow anyone to enter the Site who does not

have a key to the gate. Please report anyone who is acting suspiciously to a Committee member, and do not leave valuable items on the Site.

If you spot anything untoward or experience theft or vandalism you should contact the Site Security Officer (contact details are on the notice boards) and complete an Incident Form which can be found on the Website or in the Distribution Hut.

Welcome to Seaford Allotment

If you no longer wish to continue renting your plot, kindly advise the Treasurer as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to terminate the Tenancy Agreement. Please also return your Site key(s) at which time your deposit will be returned.

.....and finally

Enjoy your plot! It is hard work but great fun and very rewarding. It certainly beats a work out in the gym to keep fit and produces great tasting food that you have grown yourself.



For any enquiries contact:-

Plot Supervisor:

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New Member's Officer:

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