



Allotment Newsletter

What's happening down on the allotments?

Did you know that Weymouth Town Council has 9 allotment sites with 363 allotment plots across Weymouth?

We also own a further 2 sites with 294 plots that are run by Green Lane and Faircross Allotment Associations.



New Allotment Site: Southdown Farm

Council Staff Justine Bell, far left, and Alan Knight, far right, admire the green fingers of new tenants Lucy Wyman, Gail Coverley and John Robinson.

In March 2022, Dorset Council transferred Southdown Farm allotments to Weymouth Town Council. We're pleased to report that 9 tenants are now working plots at the site in Preston.

Lucy said 'It's great that everyone on the site lives within walking distance so there is no need to drive a car. We get to talk to one another whilst gardening so it's far more sociable than gardening at home. We also like to share tips and swap seeds so there's a lovely community feel to the site.'

Rubbish Clearance

As a onetime offer the Town Council placed a skip and flatbed van at Quibo Lane allotment site so that tenants could clear any refuse that was no longer required on their plot. This will be rolled out across all sites over the next 5 years. In March 2023, tenants at Lanehouse and Parsons Close allotment sites will be offered the same opportunity.

Justine and Alan assisting tenants to clear rubbish from plots at Quibo Lane.



Go Harry!

Showing that age is no barrier to being a budding allotment tenant, Harry was preparing his own section of plot at Quibo Lane allotments back in March.

No Dig Gardening

Why not try no dig gardening? It makes life easier, plants are healthier and there are fewer weeds!

No dig gardening improves soil health and retains carbon and it also helps to support a more sustainable allotment by increasing biodiversity. The aim is simple, to exclude the light so weeds can't grow and cover the soil with a rich organic mulch, such as homemade compost, fully rotted

manure, leaves, grass cuttings or a mix of them all. These layers break down over time to create a rich growing environment above the soil.

To find out more, visit the Gardener's World website:

www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/no-dig-gardening-guide/

Metaldehyde Slug Pellets are Banned in the UK

In April 2022 it became illegal to sell, supply or use slug pellets containing metaldehyde. If a tenant is not adhering to the ban, please report them to Environmental Health or the Council.

To protect birds and mammals, such as hedgehogs, from harm, please always seek organic methods of pest control. To find out more, visit the RSPB's website: www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/animal-deterrents/organic-pest-control/

Get Composting

No serious allotment is complete without a compost bin or compost area. Not only is composting an environmentally friendly way of dealing with garden waste, it's also a great method of enriching your allotment soil and, therefore, helping to grow healthy plants. So, if you love your plants and flowers and want to improve the condition of your soil, why not invest in a compost bin?

Dorset Council are offering a black 220 litre bin for £6, if you want a second, it's half price.

To find out more visit Dorset Council's website: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/home-composting-offers



get composting.com

Dorset Council

COMPOST BIN

Special Offer

Dorset County Council has teamed up with **getcomposting.com** to provide an exclusive offer of home compost bins and other great green products.

Composting at home cuts CO₂ emissions and turns most kitchen and garden waste into a free supply of compost that will keep your garden blooming year after year.

From only
£6.00
*Buy one get one half price**

220 litre
Height 900mm (35")
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Standard cost from BT landline 5 pence per minute plus setup charge. Other providers may charge more. *Buy one get one half price offer applies when ordering two of the same product.



Going Peat Free

Government has announced that peat-based compost will be banned for use on private gardens and allotments in England by 2024 meaning gardeners will need to use peat free compost.

As well as carbon capture and storage, peatlands provide habitat to some of the UK's most threatened wildlife, such as swallowtail butterflies and short eared owls. Currently there are only 13% of peatlands in a near perfect state. The government has a target of restoring 35,000 hectares of peatlands by 2025 as part of its commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

To help restore our peatlands, go peat free now. For top tips on peat free gardening, visit the National Trusts website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/going-peat-free

Contact:

Justine Bell, Allotment & Play Park Officer

Email: allotments@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Land line: 01305 239293

Mobile no's: 07805 788682

Working days: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday



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