



Interested in a Plot at Sunningdale?

Background

Sunningdale Allotments (off Church Road) are owned and run by [Sunningdale Parish Council](#). They have been in existence since the late 1870s. There are currently 53 plots of varying sizes on the site, the average being just under 5 poles (which equates to circa. 125 square metres); there is a site map on the other side of this page for your information. The site has a locked gate, partial fencing, reasonable car parking facilities and 6 water outlets.

There is a web site which is steadily growing in popularity among allotment enthusiasts around the country. It includes information on clearing and cultivating your plot which is particularly useful to new growers, photos, a history of the site, a general history of allotments in England, lots of useful links, et cetera. It can be found at: <http://www.sunningdaleallotments.org.uk/>.

There is a site representative who acts as a liaison between plot holders and the Parish Council. He disseminates information to plot holders via email to those who are on the Internet and are prepared to provide their email address (circa. 75% currently receive information via this method). It includes: periodic newsletters and any specific items of note, e.g. the availability of free manure and secondary glazing panels. For plot holders who do not receive communication via email the information can be usually be found on the notice board in the allotment car park.

What It Takes to Look After an Allotment

Allotmenting is both very enjoyable and rewarding, but if you are a novice – newbie seems to be the “in term” these days – it is important not to underestimate the effort that is required to look after a plot. Do not be seduced by today’s TV gardening programmes that tend to make it look easier and quicker than it is in practice. They may contain useful nuggets of information and indeed be entertaining, but in terms of assessing the effort required it is prudent to take them with the proverbial “pinch of salt”.

The first point of note is that when you are offered a plot there is no guarantee that it will be in pristine condition. Approximately 75-80% of plots are overgrown to some degree when they are given up by the previous allotment holder; the extent naturally varies from plot to plot. If you do not fancy the effort involved in clearing the plot(s) that are on offer you face the danger of going back down to the bottom of the waiting list. However, if you are not afraid of hard work and you demonstrate that you are making steady progress you will be given the necessary time to transform the plot. For example, an extremely overgrown plot may take a couple of years to completely clear and get under cultivation. So in the first year you may simply concentrate on clearing and cultivating half. If the plot is only moderately overgrown perhaps you will manage to do it all in the first year, depending on the time that you can dedicate to the task – many people have other pressures on their time, e.g. work and family. And if it is not overgrown at all? ... you are one of the lucky ones!!

The next question is how much effort is required to prepare, sow, plant, weed and harvest. The answer is that it varies throughout the year and it depends on the size of your plot. Let us assume that you have a 4 pole plot (approx. 100 sq metres):

- May-Sept - allow a minimum of 30 minutes per week per pole (2 hours per week for our 4 pole plot)
- Winter / Spring digging and preparation - allow 20-30% of the Summer figure above, i.e. 25-35 minutes per week for a 4 pole plot. You usually tend to do several hours work at a time which means that there is no requirement to come weekly as there is in the Summer.

What Next?

If you have not been discouraged contact Anne Martin, the clerk to the [Parish Council](#), and get yourself on the waiting list.



Sunningdale Allotments

Sunningdale Parish Council Allotments

Notes

Arrows indicate paths for which you are responsible;

W = Water Tank

S = Standpipe

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Main Car Park Area

