

1. Monks Dale



2. Larkhill



3. Rustywell



4. Turners Barn Lane



5. Milford Dip



6. St. Georges



7. Elizabeth Flats



8. Newtown



9. Hillcrest



10. Goar Knap



11. Sunningdale





Introducing Yeovil Allotments Association

We were formed in 2009. Yeovil Town Council offer allotments to rent around Yeovil over 11 sites. If you like the idea of growing your own and like the well being aspect, then please get in touch with one of our members.

There are many benefits to renting an allotment besides offering gardening advice we can offer discounted seeds and special deals on compost with our Gold club membership in conjunction With Brimsmore Garden Centre

Our membership includes a great wealth of experience on all aspects of the process on the allotment and we are only too happy to offer advice to new members. We are here to support your allotments needs.

Every year we hold our Annual show where members can enter their produce with prizes for all the winning categories. We are lucky to have a top Judge in the South West as our Chairman We hold a committee meeting at Johnson Park Social Club on the last Thursday of each month in the lounge.

Also on the first Wednesday or Thursday depending on venue we hold an impromptu gathering for members to meet and chat. There is a raffle and sometimes a guest speaker to offer us advice on growing your own.

All of our sites have a representative to which you can turn to for general advice, who can then report any problems to the powers that be on your behalf.

If this is what you would like to do or would like to know more about us.

Then please contact us by visiting our website at :

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

or email :

info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

Where we meet

Johnson Park, Coronation Avenue,
Yeovil. BA21 3DX

as well as

Brimsmore Gardens, Tintinhull Road, Yeovil,
Somerset BA21 3NU

We generally meet twice a month. The last Thursday of the month is reserved for a committee meeting. We discuss all things related to the Association and deal with any matters arising. We meet at 8pm on these nights in the lounge bar at Johnson Park Sports and Social Club. They have a car park

Minutes are recorded by our Secretary. The Chairman opens the meeting and directs us through the running order and as well as site supervisor's input there is a monthly Treasurer's report.

The other meeting night is a more social event and this takes place on the 1st Thursday of the month. We can invite a speaker, you can buy a drink at the bar and there is a raffle normally run by Phillip.

Twice a year on the 1st Wednesday of the month we meet at Brimsmore Garden Centre for our social. We meet in the Apple Tree restaurant at 6.30pm. Some tea and biscuits are available for free. We try to have a guest speaker at these events or a talk on a garden topic and a raffle run by Phillip's wife.

These two events replace our said Thursday social meetings at Johnson Park.

Your annual membership card gives you the time and dates of meetings for the year ahead. Our membership night for renewals is every March and again a discount night is offered for any garden centre items which are not on special offer.

Link to Brimsmore Garden Centre

We have a Gold Club discount deal with Brimsmore Garden Centre.

They offer all member's 25% discount on Spring bulbs for sale in October and then again a second deal for anything at the Centre that is not on special offer which can be used as many times as you want during January and February.

I have used it for compost in the past and the savings are quite good on your pocket. You can have the items delivered which is free within the Yeovil area or you can pick your items up at the Garden Centre.

Brimsmore Garden Centre website address :

<https://store.thegardensgroup.co.uk>

Email :
brimsmore@thegardensgroup.co.uk

Telephone no. : 01935 411000

Address :

Brimsmore Gardens
Tintinhull Road
Yeovil
Somerset
BA21 3NU





Yeovil Town Council

If you are thinking of renting an allotment then please contact Yeovil Town Council for a rental form and prices. There are 11 sites with a total of 300 allotments. At the moment there is no waiting list.

Address

Yeovil Town Council
The Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil, BA20 1PQ

Website : yeovil.gov.uk/allotments

Email : ytic@yeovil.gov.uk

Phone : 01935 382424

Allotments for All Project

This is part of Yeovil Town Council's current "Allotments for All project" which aims to increase the health and well-being of local people via allotments. This is funded until September by the Somerset Association of Local Councils community health and wellbeing programme. Yeovil Town Council is also rolling out an allotment improvement project, you may well have seen our team on site, this will be part of an ongoing programme of works.

Part of our project is to attract people or groups in need, or at disadvantage, who might ordinarily struggle to keep an allotment, by offering free shared plots for the year.

Gold Club Membership

Yeovil Town Council is now pleased to include **Gold Club membership** for the Gardens Group. (Brimsmore Garden Centre) *free of charge* for all allotment holders who are up to date with their plot payments. This entitles you to discounts, offers and talks from a range of experts in the world of gardening and growing. You will already be receiving this benefit if you are a member of Yeovil Allotment Association. YAA members will have auto enrolment too. In summary, if you have an allotment with YTC you now have added benefits as a gold club member.

Allotment Club

Yeovil Town Council will soon be launching a new YTC Allotment Club bringing family friendly inclusive socials, a light-hearted Autumn Harvest Show with competitions for all ages and better connections between different about this in due course. As part of our commitment to celebrating plants and growing we are also pleased to be hosting **Specialist Plant Fairs** who will be bringing their plant show to Yeovil Country Park (Ninesprings) on 29th May Bank Holiday Monday 10-2pm, please put the date in your diary.

Site Representatives

Yeovil Town Council are very grateful to our brilliant site **reps** who do a wonderful job, we are now revising the voluntary role to look how we can make it work better for you. There are YTC rep vacancies at Sunningdale, St. Georges, Hillcrest and Monksdale allotments, please consider volunteering for this role if you are on one of these sites, and talk to me about what would make it work for you if you are interested.

Contact Details

Sue Wheeler
Parks Engagement Officer
Sue.wheeler@yeovil.gov.uk
07849 643391



Our Annual Show held at Johnson Park Sports and Social Club

Show Secretary : David Recardo

Show Organiser : Anne Taylor

Pictures from August's Show 2025

It was our first show at Johnson Park Sports and Social Club. The best part was the comment that it was under cover and the hall quite suitable for our event. It was a team effort and special praise goes to our committee members for their help on the day and to our judges who were quietly encouraged by the event. Finally to our growers and competitors who produced some wonderful show exhibits. Well done to the main winners and also the individual class winners who received medals for their efforts.



The Annual Show Johnson Park 2025

The Chairman's Cup
Most Points for Fruit and Vegetables

Winner
Keith Hartnell



The Annual Show Johnson Park 2025

The Home Produce Cup
Most Points in Home Produce

Winner
Janet Gordon



The Annual Show Johnson Park 2025

The Crystal Cup
Best Exhibit in Flowers and Plants

Winner
Roger Downting



The Annual Show Johnson Park 2025

The Albert Knight Cup
Best Exhibit in Fruit and Vegetable

Winner
Abdul & Dessy Elmahdy



The Annual Show Johnson Park 2025

The Garden Group Prize
Best Plant from Plug Supplied

Winner
David Recardo



The Annual Show Johnson Park 2025

The Anne Meyrick Tankard
Most Points in Show

Winner
David Recardo



The Annual Show Johnson Park 2025

The Flower Cup
Most Points for Flowers and Plants

Winner
Elna Nioda



Yeovil Allotments Association Committee

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

email : info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

Chairman and Show Judge – Mr. Manfred Roper

Secretary and Show Secretary – Mr David Recardo

Treasurer – Mr Gareth Richards

Show Organiser – Mrs Anne Taylor

Allotment Site Reps:

Milford Dip	-	Manfred Roper
Sunningdale	-	John Day
Larkhill	-	Ian Slade
St. Georges	-	Ian Bramley
Turners Barn Lane	-	Keith Hartnell
Goar Knap	-	Dave Potten
Elizabeth Flats	-	Gareth Richards
RustyWell	-	Philip Billing
Newtown	-	Ramona Morton

Other Committee Members	-	Roger Downting
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Town Council Representative	-	Sue Wheeler
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The role of the committee is to organise and answer any queries to do with the Allotments. We meet at Johnson Park at 8pm in the lounge on the last Thursday of each month.

We liaise with Yeovil Town Council our landlord over issues such as security and allotment maintenance. We are here to promote Allotment Life in Yeovil and the general well being of our members.

We have a brand Logo and offer through a shopping catalogue, monthly magazine and a website the means to get involved and support the Association while learning some of the pleasures involved with growing your own flower, fruit and vegetables

If you are an Allotment holder, you can join the committee and get involved with the day to day activities. We organise a show every year during August where members can enter their produce in competition. There are medals and trophies for the winning entries.

We offer discounted services through the Gold Club in association with Brimsmore Garden Group and also have an ordering facility for fruit and vegetables with Kings Seeds Ltd.

Membership is yearly from March to February and costs £10.00 a year. Being an Association we have links to the National Allotment Society and also carry insurance for those times when things go wrong.

Currently there is no waiting list for new allotments. If you would like to no more then contact us through the website found at

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk or email : info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

There is also a link to Yeovil Town Council who will provide the allotment to the prospective tenant for rent and a key to the site. The rent is yearly and there is also a water bill cost shared equally between all members on your site. Both are due around October every year.

I wish you well and Happy Allotmenting !





Tools

Top 10 Tools required for an Allotment

1. The Versatile Spade: Your Allotment's Best Friend
An allotment spade is an essential tool for any gardener, especially those tending to an allotment. Its sturdy construction and versatile design make it ideal for a variety of tasks, from digging trenches for planting to turning over compost and breaking up compacted soil. The spade's sharp blade ensures efficient digging, while its long handle provides leverage, making it easier to tackle tough jobs. Whether you're a seasoned allotment holder or just starting out, a reliable spade is a must-have tool for maintaining a healthy and productive garden.

2. Hand Trowel: Perfect for Precision Planting
The importance of a hand trowel in allotment gardening cannot be overstated. This essential tool is used for a wide range of tasks, from planting seedlings to weeding and loosening soil. A good-quality hand trowel should have a sturdy, rust-resistant blade and a comfortable handle. Features to look for include a reinforced neck to prevent breakage and a D-shaped handle for better grip. Beyond planting, hand trowels can be used for transplanting, dividing perennials, and even harvesting small root vegetables. Ergonomic options, such as cushioned handles or angled blades, can help prevent strain and discomfort during prolonged use. Investing in a high-quality hand trowel is a worthwhile investment for any allotment gardener.

3. Garden Fork: Breaking Ground with Ease
An allotment garden fork is an indispensable tool for any serious gardener. Unlike a spade, which is designed for digging and turning soil, a fork has long, tines that penetrate the ground more gently, making it ideal for aerating soil, loosening compacted areas, and lifting heavy objects. Garden forks can be used to break up clods, plant bulbs, and even remove weeds. When choosing a fork, consider the soil type: a heavier fork is better suited for clay soils, while a lighter one is more appropriate for sandy soils. For efficient use, drive the fork into the ground at an angle, twist to

4. Rake: Keeping Your Allotment Tidy and Prepared
An allotment rake is an indispensable tool for any gardener, especially those tending to allotments. Its wide, flat head is perfect for spreading compost, leveling soil, and raking up leaves or debris. The sturdy design ensures it can handle tough tasks without bending or breaking. Additionally, allotment rakes are often made with long handles, providing comfortable reach and minimizing strain on the back. Whether you're preparing a new plot or maintaining an established one, an allotment rake is a must-have tool for efficient and effective gardening.

5. Watering Can: Nurturing Your Plants to Perfection
An allotment watering can is an indispensable tool for any gardener. It allows for precise and controlled watering, ensuring that plants receive the exact amount of moisture they need to thrive. The long spout and wide base of a watering can make it easy to reach delicate seedlings and deep-rooted plants. Additionally, the ability to adjust the water flow rate ensures that you can avoid overwatering, which can lead to root rot and other plant diseases.

6. Gardening Gloves: Protecting Your Green Thumb
Allotment gardening gloves are essential tools for any gardener, providing protection from thorns, chemicals, and the harsh elements. They help prevent cuts, blisters, and skin irritations, allowing you to work comfortably and safely. Well-chosen gloves offer a good balance of dexterity and durability, ensuring you can handle delicate tasks while maintaining protection. Whether you're planting seedlings, weeding, or harvesting produce, a pair of reliable gloves is a must-have for any allotment gardener.

7. Pruning Shears: Keeping Your Plants in Shape
Allotment pruning shears are a crucial tool for any gardener, especially those tending to an allotment. These specialized shears are designed to cut through tough stems and branches with precision, allowing for proper pruning and shaping of plants. They are essential for maintaining healthy growth, preventing disease, and maximizing yields. Whether you're trimming fruit trees, shaping hedges, or removing dead or diseased parts of your plants, a good pair of allotment pruning shears is an indispensable asset in your gardening toolkit.

8. Wheelbarrow: Your Allotment Transportation Solution
An allotment wheelbarrow is an indispensable tool for any gardener. It's a versatile workhorse that can transport everything from soil and compost to plants and heavy tools. Its sturdy construction and large capacity make it ideal for moving materials around the allotment efficiently. Whether you're digging a new bed, spreading fertilizer, or harvesting a bountiful crop, a wheelbarrow is a must-have item that will save you time and effort.

9. Garden Hoe: Weed Control Made Easy
The allotment garden hoe is a versatile tool that plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy and productive vegetable patches. Its flat blade, often made of hardened steel, is ideal for a variety of tasks. Hoeing can be used to loosen soil, creating a more aerated environment for plant roots. It can also be used to remove weeds, preventing them from competing with valuable crops for nutrients and water. Additionally, hoeing can help to control pests by disturbing their habitats and exposing them to predators. With proper use, an allotment garden hoe can significantly improve the health and yield of a vegetable garden.

10. Compost Bin: Turning Waste into Garden Gold
An allotment compost bin is an invaluable tool for any gardener. It provides a natural and sustainable way to create nutrient-rich compost for your plants. By composting food scraps, garden waste, and other organic materials, you reduce your household waste and create a valuable resource for your allotment. Compost improves soil structure, increases water retention, and enhances plant growth. It also helps to suppress weeds and pests, creating a healthier and more productive garden.
<https://youtu.be/sGJ3Ru-50zg> "t " _blank
Conclusion: And there you have it, folks! These **10 essential allotment tools** will set you up for success in your allotment gardening adventure. Remember, you don't need to break the bank to get started. Begin with the basics and build your collection as you grow (pun intended!). The most important tool? Your passion and willingness to learn. So, grab your spade, put on those gloves, and let's get digging! Your future self will thank you when you're biting into that first juicy, homegrown tomato. Happy gardening, and may your allotment flourish!



Question : What do you like about Allotment Life ?

Here are some of our members affirmations and reasons when they were asked the question.

Answers :

Grow your own fresh fruit and vegetables and flowers.

Fresh air and exercise

In contact with fellow Allotmenters

Sharing knowledge and Plants with other Allotmenters.

Growing my own food, no air miles, just a 2 minute walk from home

“ We grow beautiful flowers”

I like producing fresh food for the table

Takes me back to when I was young and visiting Grandad’s garden.

I like the show and awards ceremony and seeing the smiles as they are rewarded

I like the fresh air and exercise, I much prefer it to a sweaty gym.

It all tastes better than you can buy in the shops.

The Natural Antidepressant In Soil: How Gardening Makes You Happy



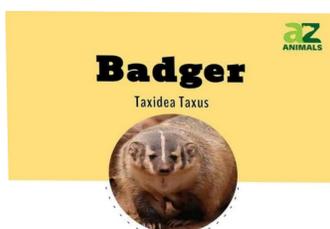
People experiencing depression may have a viable option to medication if studies into soil microbes are correct. Researchers have discovered that a bacterium in the soil called **Mycobacterium Vaccae** activates neurons that stimulate serotonin production.

M. Vaccae works in a similar way to antidepressant medications but anyone can access it for free, it has no side effects and it doesn't create drug dependency.

Can Soil Really Make a Difference to Mental Health?

Researchers say it can and given recent statistics, the mental health charity MIND say that approximately **1 in 4 people** in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year, it's of paramount importance that people struggling with mental health have options to improve their quality of life.

Animals, Birds and Insects you would expect to see on or around the allotment during the year.



POPULATION
150,000 in North America, 400,000 in British Isles

LOCATION
North America, Europe, Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia

CONSERVATION STATUS
Near Threatened

WEIGHT
20-24 lbs

HABITAT
Grassland areas, mountain meadows, forest glades and marshes

Black, brown, gold or white mid-sized, bristly haired animals with long, low bodies and wide feet with elongated claws

10 FOX FACTS

- FOXES LIVE ALL OVER THE WORLD AND IN ALL KINDS OF HABITATS
- FOXES ARE A LOT LIKE CATS - BUT ARE ACTUALLY RELATED TO DOGS
- FOXES CAN SMELL PRETTY BAD
- FOXES ARE EXTREMELY VOCAL
- MANY FOXES MATE FOR LIFE
- FOXES HAVE CARING FAMILIES
- FOXES ARE EXCELLENT HUNTERS WITH AMAZING SENSES
- FOXES CAN REALLY JUMP HIGH
- FOXES HAVE BEAUTIFUL FUR - BUT THIS ALSO GETS THEM INTO TROUBLE
- FOXES PLAYED A ROLE IN UNDERSTANDING DOMESTICATION AND HEREDITY

10 FUN FACTS ABOUT HONEY BEES

- They are pollinators!
- They live in hives
- They produce honey
- The queen receives special food
- They are great flyers!
- Amazing sense of smell!
- Worker bees live a short time
- Queen bees live longer
- They are great dancers, too!
- We can help them!

Fun Facts about Hedgehogs

- Hedgehogs are small mammals found in Europe, Africa and Asia. There are 17 species of hedgehogs.
- Hedgehogs have poor eyesight but have a fantastic sense of smell and hearing.
- Hedgehogs have between 5000 and 7000 spines on their back. Each falls a year before dropping out and being replaced.
- The hedgehog has a vulnerable stomach which is why it curls up into a spiky ball around predators.
- Hedgehogs are great swimmers! They will swim to access food sources or in a body of water.
- Hedgehogs weigh the same as a pineapple at approximately 1.2kg!
- A hedgehog's diet consists of insects, small mice and even frogs!
- Hedgehogs can travel up to two miles while hibernating in the evenings.

Types of Butterflies

Monarch	Swallowtail	Painted Lady
Cabbage White	Buckeye	Sulphur
Tiger Swallowtail	Clouded Yellow	Tortoiseshell
Red Admiral	Blue Morpho	Peacock
Glasswing	Zebra Longwing	Common Blue
Skipper	Hairstreak	Fritillary

.....Robins.....

- The only time that robins pair up is in spring when a male and female robin are going to raise a family!
- In Malta Robins are common but are seen mainly in Winter!
- Robins eat mostly insects and worms!
- Robins also like bird tables with sweet or fatty crumbs!

BUTTERFLY FACTS

There are four stages in a butterfly lifespan: the egg stage, the larva (caterpillar) stage, the pupa (chrysalis) stage, and the adult butterfly stage.

© EASY FAMILY FUN

Structures found on Allotments



Shed



Polytunnel



Water Butt



Greenhouse



Compost Bin



Raised Bed

Definition of a Compost Bin

A compost bin is a container designed to facilitate the decomposition of organic matter, such as kitchen scraps and garden waste, into compost. It creates an ideal environment for microorganisms like bacteria and fungi to break down these materials.

Key Features

Structure: Compost bins can be made from various materials, including plastic, wood, or metal. They often have a lid to protect contents from excessive rain and pests.

Aeration: Proper aeration is essential for the composting process. Many bins are designed to allow airflow, which helps microorganisms thrive.

Moisture Retention: A good compost bin retains moisture, which is crucial for the decomposition process.

Types of Compost Bins

Continuous Compost Bins: These allow for ongoing addition of organic matter and have multiple chambers for different stages of composting.

Batch Compost Bins: These are filled at once and require monitoring until the composting process is complete.

Worm Bins: These use worms to help break down food waste and are often kept indoors.

Purpose

The primary purpose of a compost bin is to convert organic waste into nutrient-rich compost, which can be used to improve soil health and support plant growth.

Definition of a Water Butt

A water butt, also known as a rain barrel, is a large container designed to collect and store rainwater. It typically gathers water from rooftops through downpipes and is used primarily for gardening and other outdoor tasks.

Key Features

Barrel
The main container that holds the collected rainwater.

Lid

Covers the container to keep debris and insects out, reducing evaporation.

Tap

Located at the bottom for easy access to the stored water.

Diverter

Connects to the downpipe to channel rainwater into the butt and manage overflow.

Functionality

Water Collection: Water butts intercept rainwater as it flows down from the roof, directing it into the container.

Usage: The stored rainwater can be used for watering plants, washing cars, or flushing toilets, helping to conserve mains water.

Benefits

Environmental Impact: Using a water butt reduces reliance on municipal water supplies, promoting sustainability.

Cost Savings: It can lower water bills by providing an alternative water source for outdoor use.

Water butts are an effective way to harness rainwater, making them popular among gardeners and environmentally conscious homeowners.

Definition of a Shed

A shed is a simple, single-storey structure often used for storage, hobbies, or as a workspace. It typically serves as an outbuilding in a garden or on an allotment. Sheds can vary significantly in size and complexity, from basic open-sided designs to larger, more elaborate structures with roofs, windows, and electrical outlets.

Construction and Features

Sheds can be made from various materials, including wood, metal, and plastic. They may have features like:

Lockable doors for security

Windows for natural light

Electrical outlets for tools and lighting

Sheds are versatile and can be customized to fit different needs, making them popular for both practical storage and creative spaces.

Definition of a Greenhouse

A greenhouse is a structure designed to create a controlled environment for growing plants. It typically features transparent materials that allow sunlight to enter while trapping heat inside, which helps maintain a warm temperature for plant growth.

Materials Used

Common materials for greenhouse construction include:

Glass: Offers excellent light transmission and durability.

Polycarbonate: A rigid plastic that provides good insulation and is lightweight.

Polyethylene: A flexible plastic film often used for covering larger structures.

Functionality

Greenhouses regulate temperature and humidity, allowing for year-round cultivation of various plants. They can be equipped with heating, cooling, and ventilation systems to optimize growing conditions. This controlled environment enables gardeners to extend the growing season and cultivate plants that may not thrive in the local climate.

Definition of a Polytunnel

A polytunnel, also known as a polyhouse, hoop greenhouse, or high tunnel, is a structure designed for growing plants. It typically consists of a steel frame covered with polyethylene plastic. The shape is usually semi-circular, square, or elongated.

Temperature Control

Polytunnels create a warmer environment by trapping solar heat. This allows for better growth conditions for plants, as the interior heats up faster than heat can escape.

Protection from Weather

They protect crops from harsh weather conditions such as intense heat, bright sunlight, wind, hail, and cold temperatures. This enables growers to extend the growing season and cultivate crops that might not survive outdoors.

Definition of a Raised Bed

A raised bed is a gardening structure where soil is elevated above ground level, typically enclosed by a frame made of materials like wood, stone, or concrete. The height of raised beds can vary from a few inches to waist-high, allowing for easier access and maintenance.

Benefits of Raised Beds

Improved Soil Quality

Control Over Soil: Gardeners can fill raised beds with high-quality soil, which is often enriched with compost, improving drainage and nutrient availability.

Reduced Compaction: Since gardeners do not walk on the soil, it remains loose, allowing roots to grow more easily.

Enhanced Growing Conditions

Extended Growing Season: Raised beds warm up faster in spring, allowing for earlier planting.

Weed Suppression: Plants are spaced closely together, which can shade out weeds and reduce their growth.

Accessibility

Easier for All: Raised beds can be built at various heights, making gardening accessible for individuals with limited mobility.

Construction Materials

Raised beds can be made from various materials, including:

Wood: Commonly used, but should be untreated or treated with safe preservatives.

Concrete Blocks: Durable and easy to use, though less visually appealing.

Metal and Plastic: Available in pre-manufactured kits, often UV stabilized and food-safe.

Planting in Raised Beds

Most vegetables, herbs, and flowers thrive in raised beds. The design allows for intensive planting, maximizing space and yield.