A Review of my first 3 years with Yeovil Allotments Association and a round up of events during my first year as Treasurer

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A Chapter from the Author – New Beginnings

My name is Gareth Richards and I am the Treasurer of Yeovil Allotments Association since October 2025. I have had health issues for the best part of 40 years, which meant many years in therapy whilst I continued to work through it.

A short history for you. Dad had died of Cancer in 2010 and my mum, a year later waved me off to Nottingham University where I was employed to work in the Biomedical School as a PAT tester in the Biochemisrty labs testing electrical appliances used by the teachers and students at the School

Unfortunately after another bout of illness I was made redundant and went long term sick and eventually told that there was no need to apply for any new jobs and could claim the benefit and get on with recovery

So I lived on sickness benefits while trying to come to terms with not being in work and that although unfit for duty, I could in semi-retirement, plan the next phase of my recovery.

I moved back to Mum's in 2019 and for a year or two did very little and during the Covid 19 Pandemic isolated my self with mum, knowing my health issues meant I was on the vulnerable list for a period, until the jabs were given. I managed to survive without incidence and when life returned to normal started to look for a hobby or interest to occupy my time.

I had decided with mum to purchase a greenhouse so we could grow some fruit and vegetables and flowers and after a couple of days managed on my own to erect it and prepare a stone plinth on which it stands today.

We started growing tomatoes and peas and a few vegetables, strawberries and flowers during the first Spring/Summer period back in 2022 .

I had limited success and felt encouraged that I could put food on the table occasionally and mum was pleased with the effort.

Shortly after I started looking at gardening magazines and web sites for general information and tips that applied in the greenhouse.

Then by providence I came across the Town Council web site and a bit about allotments for rent in Yeovil through the Council.

So in September 2023 applied to the Town Council to ask if there were any allotments for rent in the area. Fortunately there were plenty to rent and wandered and picked a suitable Allotment site which was only 5 minutes by car or if needed a 20 minute walk.

After a couple of weeks plumped for plot 14 at Elizabeth Flats. To be honest it was an unkempt wilderness that need a lot of attention. I thought it would be a good challenge and if I listened to my thoughts after reading allotment articles that if I simply applied the clean up to a square metre or so, a couple of days a week, then I would be on the road to stressless living after it was over.

The first view of Plot 14.
It had been neglected for years !

Another view of Plot 14.

It is going to be quite a challenge !

Sixteen months later I finally covered the plot in weed membrane after clearing it back to earth knowing the amount of bind weed, mares tales and bramble would not ever be cleared completely and decided after some planting had gone wrong, after being choked by weeds that membrane would be a viable solution and then use raised beds for planting. In hindsight the weeds still grow but are on the whole a lot easier to manage

A view of Plot 14, 16 months later. Quite a transformation.

My first buy for the Allotment was my shed. I put a wooden base down over the membrane and with a friend erected the metal shed on top.

Some pictures below :

Sometime after I installed a greenhouse and a Polytunnel. We had heavy storms Christmas 2025 and returning from break found the greenhouse destroyed losing bits everywhere

The walk-in wonderwall polytunnel was only plastic and also broke in the storms. So eventually replaced it with a fairly standard Outsunny metal framed buy. The greenhouse was replaced with another metal framed plastic covered type which was quite inexpensive.

Photos below

Both photos show a view from the shed and a view from the entrance gate of the bottom of my plot showing the new polytunnel.

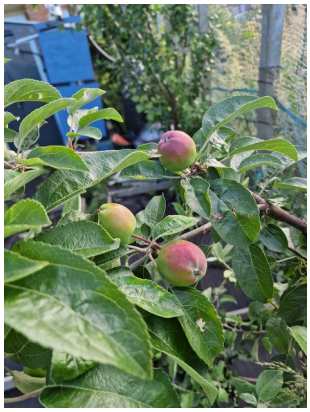
As of July 2026 I am start to grow food for the table. I planted Apple, Plum, Pear, Cherry and Fig trees which I like. The fruit bush were planted February 2025 and this year 2026 are starting to produce. I am pleased with the progress I have made so far.

I am looking forward to this years Show in August where I will enter several classes.

I have included my photos of the Allotment produce currently growing

My third summer and my Damson Plum tree is full of fruit.

My Brown Turkey Fig is also full of fruit



My Braeburn Apple tree is in full growth and have Apples aplenty to pick this year.

My European pears are also growing quite nicely.

When you rent an Allotment from the Town Council you are introduced to the Allotment Association, in my case Yeovil. I attended one of their meetings in those days at the Old Barn Club and got introduced to the committee. They were looking for recruits and I joined as a site representative on the committee for Elizabeth Flats Allotment Site.

I was the only member on the site but David the Secretary thought that it would be good to have a presence there. It was February 2024 and the AGM was being held and after due discourse I was starting to feel a bit more conscious of tasks that were starting to formulate and things that had come to pass.

The next couple of meetings were okay and the Annual Show was being planned at Brimsmore Garden Centre for August. I was still quite aware that I had no such gift with these people who had been organisng the event since way back in 2009-2010.

The Chairman was a man called Manfred Roper and amongst his skills as a former Mayor of Yeovil was also a top class show judge. The Secretary was an ex Town Cryer and also an ex-Mayor and is still the Town Mace and had a lot of experience. Both have retired but still served on several Council committees with regards organising Yeovil in Bloom, and Allotment management and their issues over many years.

There we other committee members who had been there since the start of the Association, people like Roger Downting who was an award winning Dahlia grower and has a plot at the Milford Dip Site. We also had a few ladies on the committee who were keen as mustard and some very good growers.

Ramona Morton was the Newtown site representative went on and won a couple of pieces of silverware at that years show in 2024.

Anne Taylor the Show Organiser also was a class winner and had been around since the early days. There was one more lady to introduce and that was Sue Scammell the Treasurer. She was not an allotment owner but did our accounts and also the Women's Institute Treasurer as well.

It was Sue's role as Treasurer I was to volunteer for in October 2025 when I was elected to the post at the AGM.

In the build up to the AGM in 2025 the committee would meet once a month on the last Thursday and have a social gathering on the first Wednesday of the month at Brimsmore Garden Centre. Being an Yeovil Allotments Association member meant were part of the Gold Club which Brimsmore Garden centre would offer us discount of 25% on all items twice a year, October and January – February.

The Association had been hosting our social gatherings and Annual Show for many years but with the increase in garden stuff and plants there were less area for the Show to take place and being outdoors would mean rain stop play. The late evenings running costs were also being observed by the committee and although we love Brimsmore for their warm welcome and support. The committee decided to look elsewhere to host the meetings and Annual show.

When not at Brimsmore the monthly meeting would take place at Westlands Sports and Social Club on the last Thursday during the years previous to my associations.

I had moved to Yeovil back in the early eigthies from Wales with my mum and dad and brother and while working for

Plessey Naval Systems at Templecombe, I played rugby for Yeovil RFC who were then based at Johnson Park Sports and Social Club.

David our Secretary had written to the local Halls and clubs to ask about our Association being allowed a committee night.

I asked him to consider Johnson Park as a venue for both committee and annual show as they could provide for both. Hey presto a month or so later we were booked into the lounge for last thursday of the month meeting and were allowed to host our first show in their hall in August 2025.

We had our first AGM in the Lounge at Johnson Park in Oct 2025 where Sue retired and I took on the role of Treasurer

My first year as Treasurer.

One of my jobs as Treasurer is to give a monthly financial report to the committee and the AGM yearly financial report in October.

I was quite disciplined and needed to update the old image of the Association and revamp the way we marketed our Association in the bigger picture of how we are seen by our members and clubs and societies around Yeovil and it's environs.

My first task was to rebrand our Association Logo. I did a search and found VistaPrint, They have a program called logo maker which will do a design built on a few questions and answers and produce a marketable logo brand for our Association. There were hundreds of art work logos produced and I set about picking 40 with the intention of letting the committee and social members pick their favourite 5.

We met at Johnson Park for a Thursday social in the lounge. I asked them to tick their choices and within a week or so, the members had chosen.

I reported the result at the end of month meeting and pleased to announce the Associations new logo. A picture of it is showin below.

I was very pleased to have achieved a milestone. The next step was to use our brand on merchandise like cups, pens , t-shirts and gilets, hats and poloshirts.

So I took it to be the next step and started a shop for the club and promote and market our brand amongst our members with the first Annual show at Johnson Park on a August Sunday. As a condition for this I put a catalogue together and printed a few copies for the members. I had experimented before using the logo we chose and the committee like the ideas. So once the logo had been transferred to all sorts of items, I ordered a bit of everything and sold a good few items

The major sell at the show were our two toned ceramic mugs. They were eye catching and colourful. Along with some logo pens and some other stuff made a profit at the show.

This was just the beginning and after a couple more months searching suppliers improved the range of products to embroidered ware on poloshirts, baseball caps and beanies, fleeces and gilets.

Most of the committee chose to buys cups and hats and pens which they were very happy to own.

During the winter/spring period I realised that the cheque book could not do these companies justice and all buys were debit card buys.

Once I became Treasurer my name was put on the cheque book and I applied for internet banking and a debit card, which took a couple of weeks, then the online buys became possible.

Another milestone achieved. The next step in our rebranding was to have a website and email address. So after doing some research picked a company called Webador.com to host our domain name, website and email. The main advantage of this company was that the website design was built by AI and with a quick tutorial made quite a good set of pages which helps us market our services to our members and people interested in knowing more about Allotment Life without having to program pages which I only had a limited skill with. The pages were built and added to, until it is, what it is today. The site went live in November 2025.

As is always with clubs and societies and Associations there is always a newsletter or magazine for people to feel more involved.

Our website address is :

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

Email :

info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

So half way through 2025, I started trawling the internet for ideas on what Allotmenteers would want to know. After 6 months of compositing articles and series of articles, put together a format, based on monthly tasks and fruit, flower and vegetable growing advice. Along with all the other interest stories and using websites of major allotment sites put a supply of information for our members to read and keep.

I print enough every month for committee members at the meeting and also post online on the website for our membership to read and download for themselves.

The process took 6 months of compositing through to copies being printed and my first magazine printed to read was November issue 2025.

Another Major milestone achieved and a further step along the way to spreading the coined message “Promoting Allotment Life in Yeovil.”

Being an ex- sporting gentleman even when I was a young boy in Wales where I did a lot of Athletics, hard work and reward went hand in hand and generally at the annual club night medals and trophies went hand in hand with winning your club event or county title or inter-club event.

The Annual Show rewards winning entries on a points system and if you end up with most points in certain classes, then your more than likely to one of seven trophies which are presented at the end of the show to reward good growing skills and our members hard work in the process.

Unfortunately the silverware is returnable after a year and the memories and pictures taking at the awards ceremony is all that is left along with you winning certificate printed on card.

So as a catalyst for rewarding effort with trophies, I decided to introduce keep me forever trophies for those winning silverware, something they can keep to encourage reward and good practice and hopefully to come back next year and try again while they return the silverware after a year.

What you must also realise, there are 43 classes and sometimes a class win does not always translate to silverware. So to address the inbalance, I issued engraved class winning medals with winners name and ribbon so as to reward those who may only enter one class. Everyone was pleased with their reward and I think it promoted a positive reward for effort .Sometimes trying to grow with abnormal seasonal weather can prove difficult.

Because the trophies and medals could not be issued until after the show and the expense, I asked for a period of grace and the following February rewarded all our winners with their medals and trophies at our trophy night.

The Show at Johnson Park 2025 went exceptionally well and everyone applauded and clapped willingly at the awards presentation. We had new members winning and the joy of reward for effort made everyone happy.

Having produced several milestone moments my thoughts turned to the termed outreach project where we would advertise and raise our profile around Yeovil and our entry into Schools in Yeovil.

This project had a bit of a hefty price tag that did cost more than everything else and although after a kind reprimand, I acknowledged my lack of process and control in reporting on the costs, by not asking permission of the committee first, so I have offered to reimburse the costs to the Association over a couple of years. The result was the purchasing of display boards and posters advertising our Association in static form.

I will be showing off the static display at the 2026 Annual Show and hopefully get some feed back from the members who view it during the show.

During the earlier part of 2026 I approached the Town Library to see if they offer advertising space in their big window to those who ask. They said they do and it is free to do so, and spent a couple of weeks booking dates for the window.

Some of the outreach cost covered posters for the window and some branded logo merchandise and some tools to fill the window space made a decent window feature. I advertised the dates on the website and hopefully have some daily footfall from the general public and our members. I do ask for comments, but at present have very little feedback.

I will continue to advertise in their window for the next couple of years and will change the posters to vary the visual hook.

Continuing the theme, Philip and Maggie Billing who are Church goers at Holy Trinity on Lysander Road have also helped myself by being willing to advertise our Association at their Church and the Association have also been invited to give a chat to their church membership about Allotment Life in general.

Philip is a committee member of our Association and is the site representative for Rustywell Allotments site on Lysander Road. It is welcome support and the offer of tea and cake doesn't go amiss. That will probably take place in 2027.

In June and July 2026 we saw record temperatures and a heatwave. But out of the blue I received an email from a Class teacher at Fairmead Special School, an ask for his class to come and see how food is grown on an Allotment.
The visit was planned for July 8th and Chris, the Teacher brought a group of 13 and 14 years old to Milford Dip site where Manfred gave a chat and a tour of the site.

Chris was encouraged by the site and hopeful that more classes from Fairmead Special School would like to visit and may be the School as a whole more interested in getting involved.

It is our first School that has come to us for 5 or 6 years and hopefully a full score book of visits will allow the Association to form a lasting friendship with Fairmead Special School. We will see what the future holds.

The NHS and Government have been trying to promote health and recovery from illnesses by adopting allotment Life as a means of good outdoor healthy exercise and good mental health practice. With that in mind I am wanting the Association to adopt SeedofHope.org.uk which recommend therapeutic horticulture as a recovery from mental health illness.

They have 4 projects in Somerset, one in Street at Three Acre Wood where they grow food. They meet every Friday for a full day of horticultural work and a chit chat and a cup of tea. I have advertised their web site and made contact with Kris, a director of the charity, who has asked me to go and visit their place and get to know a bit about them.

The committee could not afford to support a monthly donation, so I decided to make a personal donation every month and agree to support their cause on our website. They also have their own ground force team who for a price will clean up your garden mess or give it a makeover if you no longer can.

Hopefully with mutual support and friendship we can take another step towards promoting Allotment Life.

The 2026 Annual show has just happened. I was fortunately the only entry in 3 classes, so picked up 3 wins and a 2nd place with my cactus. My tomatoes were not as good as the other entries and did not place. Although my theme this year was “taking part”, I will be allowed to wear three class medals.

The AGM is around the corner in October and so will complete my first year in office.

David Recardo and his wife left and centre. Manfred our Chairman on the right. Picture taken at Brimsmore Garden Centre.

To the Left, Roger Downting our Champion Dahlia Grower setting up his other Class entries

Annual Show pictures 2025

2025 Photos

Top Left – Roger Downting's Dahlia display
Top middle – showtables with exhibits out for
middle right judging.

Bottom left – Winning Class entry
Bottom right – the main trophy winners

14th ANNUAL SHOW

Sunday 16th August 2026

At: - Yeovil Sports and Social Club

Johnson Park

Yeovil

(By kind permission of The Johnson Park Committee)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

AND

SHOW RULES

Open to the public at 2pm.

Official Opening at 2pm.

Presentation of Trophies and Awards at 3pm followed by the raffle draw.

Refreshments available in the bar

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Dear Allotmenteers

Welcome to this years Show Schedule which the Committee had discussed and approved.

You will see there is something there for everybody so hopefully we will have lots of entries for Tenants and Public to enjoy.

Last Years Show, which was held at the Yeovil Sports & Social Club at Johnson park proved to be a resounding success, well worth the change of venues.

it was noted that several New Members took park which is always encouraging which included a multicultural display / entries of Fruit and Vegetables not seen before.

As it seems the norm nowadays we had earlier (2025) horrendous Storms / Floods & Gales which once again tested the skill of Allotmenteers to the limit.

We had the pleasure of the Mayor & Mayoress in attendance during the afternoon of the Show and who later presented the Trophies to all the Winners.

I would like take this opportunity to thank the Social Club for allowing to hold our Show there, to David Recardo and Anne Taylor for organising everything, making sure that everything went smoothly, to David's Wife Yvonne for assistance to David and to the Committee who helped in setting the whole thing up.

It just leaves me to wish everybody a fruitful growing season and look forward to seeing you at the Show.

Manny Roper (Chairman)

1. **ENTRIES:** Entries are FREE, and all classes are open to members of Yeovil Allotments Association, their children, and grandchildren up to 14 years of age.

Entry is limited to one item per class for each exhibitor.

Entry forms must be with the Secretary (see details on back page) by 6pm on Wednesday, 12th August 2026.

(N.B. Late entries only accepted at Secretary's discretion.)"

2. **EXHIBITS:** All exhibits must have been grown by or be the work of the exhibitor. The Association reserves the right to inspect the allotment of any exhibitor prior to the Show, to verify this.

PLEASE NOTE: Two or more exhibitors may not compete separately in the same class with produce from the same allotment.

3. **STAGING: All exhibits are to be staged by exhibitors between 9.30 and 10.45 a.m. on the morning of the show and are to remain in place until after prize giving.**

All exhibits must be cleared from Johnson Park by 4pm.

Exhibitors are to provide their own plates, containers, vases, etc.

It is helpful to the judges, if varieties (if known) of veg, fruit and flowers being exhibited, are named on the entry card. (Potato varieties must be stated.)

4. **JUDGING**: **Judging will commence at 11.00am**.

In the event of there being insufficient entries in any class, or if exhibits are not of an adequate standard, the Judge may withhold any or all awards or prizes. The Judge's decision shall be final.

5. **PROTESTS:** Any protests are to be made in writing to the Chairman of Yeovil Allotments Association by 1.30pm on the day of the Show.

6. **DISPUTES:** In the event of any dispute on any matter relating to the Show, the decision of the Yeovil Allotments Association's Management Committee shall be final.

7. **TROPHIES:** Trophies are the property of the Association to be held for one year only and returned to the Secretary, in a clean condition and in its own box (as supplied with it, when awarded) no later than one month prior to the next Show

8. **POINTS:** Points will be awarded in each class as follows:

1st 3 points.

2nd 2 points.

3rd 1 point.

("Highly Commended", if awarded (solely at the judge's discretion) will earn ½ a point.)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Vegetables

1. 3 White Potatoes
2. 3 Coloured Potatoes
3. 3 Carrots
4. 3 Beetroot
5. 3 Onions
6. 6 Shallots
7. 3 Leeks
8. 6 French Beans
9. 6 Runner Beans
10. 1 Cabbage
11. 1 Cauliflower
12. 1 Lettuce
13. 5 Tomatoes
14. 5 Cherry type tomatoes
15. 2 Cucumbers
16. 2 Courgettes

Heaviest and Longest

17. Longest Runner Bean
18. Heaviest Onion
19. Heaviest Marrow (not overgrown courgette)
20. Heaviest Tomato
21. Longest Leek
22. Heaviest Brassicas e.g. Cabbage, Cauliflower any variety.
23. Heaviest Potato any variety.

Fruit

24. 3 Pears with leaf and stalk
25. 3 Apples with leaf and stalk
26. 3 Plums with leaf and stalk
27. Dish of Berries any type (15) – With Stems
28. Dish of Currants any type (15) – With Stems
29. Dish of any other soft fruit (15) – With Stems

Herbs

30. Vase of Culinary herbs

Flowers

31. 1 Single Rose
32. 3 Rose blooms with foliage
33. 3 Dahlias blooms with foliage in a vase
34. 1 Single Dahlia
35. Vase of Sweet peas single variety 6 spikes
36. Vase of assorted variety Sweet-peas 10 spikes
37. 3 Gladioli
38. Vase of flowers grown from seed in the current year wild or cultivated.
39. Vase of mixed flowers
40. Sunflowers single stem multiple heads accepted.
41. One Large Sunflower head.
42. One Cacti/succulent in a pot.
43. Biden, grown from the plug supplied by the Gardens Group (max. pot 9")

From my Allotment

44. A display of Vegetables Fruit and Flowers in a space, container, or other 60cm wide by 75cm deep.
45. A chance to use any other vegetables or fruit (in TWO's) not mentioned in the above categories.
46. Any Wonky/Misshapen fruit or vegetable

Home Produce

47. Pot of Jam (minimum size ½lb jar)
48. Pot of Fruit Jelly (minimum size ½lb jar)
49. Pot of Chutney (minimum size ½lb jar)
50. 6 Shortbread biscuits
51. 3. Cheese scones
52. 3 Plain or fruit scones
53. 1 Victoria sandwich 3eggs and filled with jam 8-inch tin

Set recipe

54. Courgette Cake.

Ingredients.

80ml/2¾ fl oz vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing.
150g/5½ oz light brown sugar
2 eggs
160g/5⅔ oz courgette, coarsely grated
180g/6⅓ oz plain flour
2 tsp baking powder
2 tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp fine salt
2 tbsp Demerara sugar for sprinkling

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas 6. Grease a 900g/2lb loaf tin and line with a long strip of baking paper.
2. In a bowl, mixed together the oil, light brown sugar and eggs until smooth. Stir in the grated courgette.
3. In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Tip the dry ingredients into the courgette mixture and stir into just combined.
4. Transfer the batter to a prepared loaf tin and sprinkle the top with Demerara sugar.
5. Bake for 45-55 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the loaf comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 20 minutes and then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely before slicing.

Men only

55. Traybake of your choice decorated with chocolate, buttercream or any other topping 6 pieces.

Junior Section

56. 6 Biscuits any shape any flavour decorated to your choice
57. Garden on a plate size of a dinner plate or biscuit tin lid.
58. An animal made from Vegetable’s and or Fruit

INSRUCTIONS FOR SHOWING

The most important thing is to read the schedule thoroughly, especially the Rules on page 3 and do not add anything to your exhibits other than what is asked for. If you have any doubts or queries, contact the Show Secretary who will be able to advise you. If you have not shown before, someone will be available to help you during staging time on Show Day. Remember to keep a copy of your entry form so you know which classes you have entered.

Vegetables

These are judged on condition, size, uniformity, quality, and freedom from damage. The numbers following refer to the **classes**, as listed in the schedule on pages 4 and 5.

1, 2. **Potatoes** should be all the same size/variety/colour. Wash off any surplus soil, taking care not to damage the skins. Display on a suitable plate. Note that white potatoes must be white all over. Any that have any coloured areas or patches on their skins must be entered in Class 2, as coloured potatoes.

3, 4. **Carrots/Beetroot** should not have forked roots or carrot fly/slug damage. Wash off any surplus soil. Trim the tops to 3". Do not tie into bunches. They should be displayed neatly, directly onto the show bench.

5. **Onions** should be of uniform size. Do not wash but remove as much excess soil as possible without causing damage. **Do not remove or cut the top leaves or tie them in any way**. Display directly onto the show bench, **AS LIFTED**.

6. **Shallots.** Display on sand on a paper plate with roots and tops trimmed and tops bound with raffia or similar (i.e. dressed).

7. **Leeks.** Avoid excessive removal of outer leaves. Wash carefully. Display with roots attached, and leaves untrimmed, side by side on the show bench.

8,9. Runner Beans/French Beans should be of uniform length with ¼" of stalk still attached. Arrange them neatly, side by side all facing the same way, directly onto the show bench. (Note that for the longest bean, 1st prize only is usually awarded.)

10,11. **Cabbage/Cauliflower** should be as free as possible from insect/slug damage. Wash the roots but do not remove. Trim cauliflower leaves level with the top of the curd. Display directly onto the show bench.

12. **Lettuce** should be free from damage and of uniform size. Display with the lettuces nestling in the neck of a suitable jar or vase, with their roots in water.

13. **Tomatoes** must be the same variety and matched for size. Display with fresh calyx still attached to each, arranged neatly (on sand if desired) on a suitable plate.

14. **Cherry Type Tomatoes**

15,16. Cucumbers/Courgettes should be of one variety and uniform length, with short stem attached. Ensure that **courgettes** do not exceed 6" in length. (These may be displayed with or without flowers. Flowers, if present, may extend beyond the 6" limit, provided the length of the courgette itself is not more than 6")

Heaviest And Longest

17. Longest Runner Bean. Displayed directly on the bench.

18. Heaviest Onion. should have roots and tops trimmed and tops bound with raffia or similar (i.e., dressed). Note that 1st prize only is likely to be awarded in this class.

19. Heaviest Marrow. (Note that 1st prize only is usually awarded in this class)

20. Heaviest Tomato Display with fresh calyx still attached

21. Longest Leek

22. Heaviest Brassicas e.g. Cabbage, Cauliflower any variety.

23. Heaviest Potato Any Variety

Fruit

24. 3, Pears

25. 3, Apples

26. 3. Plums

27. Dish of 15 Berries any type

28. Dish of 15 Currants any type

29. Dish of 15 any other fruit

Herbs

30. Vase of Culinary Herbs 3 or more varieties, in water, with a card listing those used.

Flowers

a. Always pick the best, and avoid specimens that have damaged leaves or petals, are spattered with soil, or infested with insects.

b. Arrange flowers simply but tastefully in a plain vase or other holder.

c. Take care not to include kinds or varieties that are not asked for or put more in the vase than the class requires. If the class specifies a single bloom, then extra buds/flowers and leaves must

be removed, leaving just one bloom on the stem. If you do not observe these rules, then your entry may be disqualified as "NAS" (not according to schedule.)

d. Leaves may be included, if they are an integral part of a stem, but must not be added separately, just for decoration or staging.

e. Ensure that the container you are using is heavy and stable enough to take the flowers you are exhibiting, without tipping over! The show bench may be rather uneven.

f. As far as possible, place your entries sensibly and thoughtfully on the bench, where they will not obscure any smaller/shorter one(s)s behind yours, which makes the judge's job difficult, and is very unfair to the other exhibitor(s). If there is not enough room to place your entry on the bench, it is vital that you *do not move or disturb any other exhibitors' entries* to fit yours in. Seek the help of a steward, to make or supervise any moves that may be necessary.

31. 1 Single Rose

32. 3 Rose Blooms with Foliage

33. 3 Dahlias Bloom with Foliage in vase

34. 1 Single Dahlias

35. Vase of 6 Sweet Peas Single Variety

36. Vase of 10 Sweet Peas assorted variety

37. 3 Gladioli

38. Vase of flowers grown from seed in the current year

39. Vase of Mixed Flowers

40. Sunflower single stem multiple heads accepted

41. One large Sunflower Head

42. One Cacti/succulent in a Pot

43. Biden grown from the plug supplied by the Gardens Group (max. pot 9")

From my allotment

44. A display of Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers in a space. Container or other, size 60cm wide by 75cm deep. Accessories may be used to enhance the display.

45. Any other Vegetables: 2 matched specimens. All, (except for spinach/chard – see** below) to be placed direct on the show bench. For example: -

Celery/Celeriac. Washed/sponged clean. With leaves, but roots neatly cut away.

Parsnips, Swedes, Turnips: Washed carefully and trimmed to 1 tap root, with any side roots neatly removed.

Peas: Exactly as for runner and French beans, at 9/10 above.

Peppers, Aubergines, Squashes: Uniform size/shape/colour, with stalks attached.

Radishes: Uniform in size/shape/colour and selected for tenderness.

Spinach/Chard: As free from blemishes as possible, *and in a suitable jar of water*

Sweetcorn: With silks intact but pull down one or two husks to expose a quarter of the grains. Neatly tuck these husks under the cob, as you place them on the bench.

46. Wonky Fruit or Vegetables: - any single item that is not as it should be, the more funny or misshapen the better.

Home Produce

47- 48. Jams. Use a standard jam jar, with no visible commercial identification. either on the jar or on any screw-top lid, if used. Fill the jar to the very top (jam/chutney shrinks down as it cools). Cover with **EITHER** a plain metal screw-top lid, **OR** a waxed disc and transparent cellophane, stretched and fastened with a rubber band, label clearly, including date made and any extra/unexpected ingredient(s) e.g. alcohol or commercial setting agent used. (Note: either/or, not both, and *no extra decorative cloth or paper coverings on top, please!*)

49. Chutneys/pickles should have been made at least 3 months before showing and be sealed with either a waxed paper or cellophane cover, or a plastic lid.

50-55. Baking to be displayed on a plate and covered with foil, greaseproof paper, or cling film.

Bought pastry is acceptable, provided this is stated on your entry card; cake mixes are not!

Junior Secion

56-58. Displayed directly on the show table.

Highlights of the 2026 Annual Show held on Sunday 16th August at Johnson Park Sports and Social Club

Roger our Dahlia expert put together a display. He was one of our Show Judges this year, so was not allowed to compete.

Another good day. David our Secretary reported 101 show entries.
The day started at 8am with the tables being laid out. All my information boards were put up and also our full roller banners.
Dave was our Show Secretary this year as Anne has left. The judges roles were left to our Chairman Manny and Roger our Dahlia man and David our secretary judged our edibles and home produce this year with his wife Yvonne. Alison our last years judge was away this year so could not attend.

I would like to give a special mention to Yvonne, David's wife and Keith Hartnell for helping the judges with their score keeping. A big well done also to Maggie and Philip Billing who looked after our raffle very ablely this year.

I would like to thank the Mayor Tony Locke and his wife and invited guests for their support on the day and the Mayor for presenting our silverware. I have taken a lot of pictures and you can see them below.

And finally a big cheer to all our allotment members who did their best under difficult growing conditions this year who entered into the spirit.

Some of the highlights of the day in pictures

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Annual Show
Annual Show

YEOVIL ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION
Annual Show
Find us at :
www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk
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Annual Show

5
6

30
28
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26
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24
25

2026 Winners

Annual Show Johnson Park 2026

Main Winners

Chairman's Cup
Mark Randall

The Flower Cup
Elna Nioda

Home Produce Cup
Janet Gordon

The Albert Knight Cup
Paul & Nicky Pitman

The Anne Meyrick Tankard
Mark Randall

The Garden Group Prize
Janet Gordon

The Crystal Cup
Janet Gordon

Individual Class Winner’s

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : White Potatoes
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Carrots
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Onions
Ramona Morton
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 6 French Beans
Janet Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 1 Lettuce
Ramona Morton

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 5 Cherry Toms
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 2 Courgettes
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Heaviest Tom.
A. & D. Elmahdy
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Pears
G. Richards
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Plums
G. Richards

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 15 Soft Fruits
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Single Rose
Elna Nioda
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Single Dahlia
V. Hatton-Wood
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Vase of Flowers
Elna Nioda
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Mult. Sunflower
Elna Nioda
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Roses
Elna Nioda

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Cacti/Suclnt
D. Recardo
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 60cm Contnr
Ramona Morton
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Jam
J. Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Scones
J. Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 1 Cabbage
Ramona Morton
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 15 Currants
D. Recardo

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Roses
Elna Nioda
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Coloured Pot.
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Beetroots
Ramona Morton
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 6 Shallots
N. & P. Pitman
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 6 Runner Beans
David Recardo
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 5 Tomatoes
N. & P. Pitman

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 2 Cucumbers
Janet Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Win : Heaviest Onion
N. & P. Pitman
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Heaviest Marrow
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Apples
G. Richards
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 15 Berries
Mark Randall

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Herbs
A. & D. Elmahdy
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 3 Dahlias
V. Hatton-Wood
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Heaviest Tomato
M. Randall
Y.A.A. 2025
Winner : Mixed Flowers
Janet Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Lgst Sunflower
E. Nioda

Y.A.A. 2026
Win : Longest Runner Bean
D. Crump
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Wonky
N. & P. Pitman

Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Gold Club Plug
J. Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Any Other
Ramona Morton
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Jelly
J. Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : 6 Shortbread
J, Gordon
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Courgette Cake
R. Morton
Y.A.A. 2026
Winner : Tray Bake
R. Nioda

Outreach project concerning Library Display

As already mentioned I have devoted some time to advertising our Association by putting on a display in the Town Library window. The posters were designed for our static displays boards and are big enough to allow a decent view of them out on the pavement. Below as some of our content which has been on display so far.

Find us online at :

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

Email us at :

info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

Yeovil Allotment Sites courtesy of Yeovil Town Council

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 to 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 superviser'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 Allotments Association

The Complete Rose Colour Meanings Guide

Coveted through the ages for its simple beauty and intoxicating fragrance, there's no better way to send a heartfelt message than with the classic rose. Roses make great tokens of affection however depending on their colour can have different meanings. Whether you are selecting a rose for a friend, family member or special someone, picking the perfect rose colour can be a great way to send a message using no words at all. To aid in your decision and help you make a "wow" impression we've rounded up all the different rose colour meanings as well as common rose traditions to compliment them.

What do the different Rose colours symbolize?

1. White Roses

To begin with our rose colour meanings guide, let's travel from lightest rose colours to darkest. White roses are traditionally associated with marriages and new beginnings, but their quiet beauty has also made them a gesture of remembrance. Suited to reverent occasions, the white rose is a fitting way to honour a friend or loved one in recognition of a new beginning or a farewell. Their pure colour conveys respect, pays homage to new starts, and expresses hope for the future. When the occasion calls for reverence a bouquet of white roses is a perfect way to say, "I'm thinking of you."

White Rose Meaning: Purity, Chastity and Innocence

2. Ivory Roses

Ivory while similar, is an off-white colour that appears a shade darker. Commonly thought of as a cream or eggshell color, ivory roses are often used to make an elegant presentation and can provide a calming vibe and sense of luxury. The ivory colour also represents charm and can be a great gift for someone with exquisite taste and style. This colour meaning would be a great selection for letting someone know you care, without romantic intentions.

Ivory Rose Meaning: Charm, Luxury and Elegance

3. Yellow Roses

While the yellow rose once symbolized jealousy and greed, it now represents friendship and care. Like the warm sunflower, gifting a yellow rose to a friend conveys warmth and affection and can be a great way to show your delight. Yellow roses also symbolize remembrance and a warm memory or a token of appreciation to another.

Yellow Rose Meaning: Friendship, Care and Remembrance

4. Peach Roses

Peach roses are known for showing thanks and expressing gratitude. They are commonly given to celebrate a business deal or arrangement and can be a sign of loyalty. Peach roses are a "sweet" surprise due to their warm colour and are a great gift for showing adoration to a young daughter or friend.

Peach Rose Meaning: Modesty, Genuineness and Sympathy

5. Orange Roses

With their blazing energy, orange roses are the wild child of the rose family. Orange roses represent fascination and pride. Whatever feelings you might be bubbling over with—enthusiasm, passion, gratitude—orange roses will get the message across with both oomph and elegance.

Orange Rose Meaning: Passion, Desire and Fierce Love

6. Pink Roses

A classic symbol of grace and elegance, the pink rose is often given as a token of admiration and appreciation. They are the gentlest of roses and relay that message through their grace. Whether they're for your best friend, fiancée or ever-dependable co-worker, a pink rose bouquet will create a bright spot in a special someone's day.

Pink Rose Meaning: Sweetness, Admiration and Joy

7. Red Roses

Long associated with beauty and perfection, red roses are a time-honoured way to say "I love you." Red roses convey passion and a strong romantic love for another person. Whether it's for a birthday, Valentine's Day or just to express appreciation on any day, there's no better way than a bouquet of red roses to share your feelings.

Red Rose Meaning: Ultimate Love, Passion and Longing

Yeovil Allotments Association

The Complete Rose Colour Meanings Guide

8. Lavender Roses

Lavender roses are often seen in spring and represent love at first sight. These roses are used to express fascination and adoration. Their beauty is known to convey enchantment and their meaning can differ by shade. Darker shades of lavender roses convey a sense of regal, majesty and splendour.

Lavender Rose Meaning: Majesty, Fascination and Splendour

9. Green Roses

Green roses represent harmony, opulence and fertility. Like the lavender rose these colours are seen in spring and can represent rebirth and tranquility. As a gift, green roses symbolize best wishes for a prosperous new life or wishes for the recovery of good health.

Green Rose Meaning: Harmony, Peace and Health

10. Blue Roses

Blue Roses, like the black rose, represent mystery and illusion from their mesmerizing hue. In terms of love, blue roses embody ultimate desire and given as a gift they also represent unattainable love but unfathomable favor.

Blue Rose Meaning : Unattainable Love, Desire and Mystery

11. Black Roses

Black roses, commonly used during Hallo ween, represent death and the ending of a feeling, idea, or relationship. Like blue roses, black roses are not created naturally so they represent mystery and elusiveness. Spooky! If you are to receive or give black roses you are conveying the end of your relations with another or signifying death.

Black Rose Meaning: Death, Elusiveness and Farewell

Mixing different rose colours into a bouquet is a personalized way to combine many messages into one display.

Mixing pink and green roses can symbolize gentleness and harmony which would be a great gift to show love and affection to a family member or kind friend.

Mixing red and ivory roses could mean your love is intense and tasteful. Sending a message through rose colour meanings is an extraordinary way to share your true feelings.

Rose Traditions and meanings

Once you've decided on a colour to convey the message you wish to send, consider a few other elements that play a part in your rose bouquet or flower selection. A few options include giving a single rose or dozen roses, a long-stemmed rose or a petite rose! Peruse common rose traditions and their meanings below to select a type of gift that will compliment your message

One Dozen Roses

One dozen roses traditionally send a message of love and gratitude. As the significance of a dozen roses has become more prevalent, it has become the standard for rose arrangements for all occasions. When giving a dozen roses you are conveying the message "Be mine" or "I love you."

Two Dozen Roses

With double the number of roses than a traditional dozen, a bouquet of two dozen roses carries double the meaning! Two dozen roses as a romantic gift say "I belong to you." For other occasions, two dozen roses add to the extravagance of the gift.

Long-stemmed Roses

Long stemmed roses carry deep meaning and are often the most desired and appreciated type of rose. A bouquet of long-stemmed roses signifies, "I will remember you always." A single long-stemmed rose imparts a message of simplicity, such as "I love you deeply."

Petite Roses

The petite roses are known for their miniature blooms, but their smaller size does not lessen their significance or their impact. Petite roses are also known as "sweetheart" roses. As their name implies, these roses are a symbol of affection perfect for a sweetheart. Petite roses are also more economical and can be re-potted and pruned for longevity.

Now that you are familiar with rose colour meanings and common rose traditions you can find a complementary pair of your choosing. Whether you are creating a bouquet for a friend or surprising a special someone do so with rose colour meanings sure to get the message across.

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!

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
Town Council Representative	-	Sue Wheeler

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 Allotmenteering !

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 Allotmenteers

Sharing knowledge and Plants with other Allotmenteers.

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.

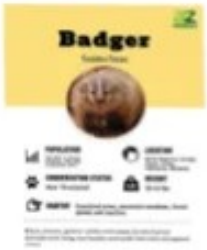
The Natural Antidepressant In Soil: How Gardening Makes You Happy

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.



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.

A view of one of our Library Displays

This is our current display as of July 2026. I apologise for the glare, but you can still see most of it, from the public point of view.

This display runs until the 1st August 2026. We return shortly after our Annual Show for 2 weeks. I will not have time to organise a new poster of winners but probably the return visit in September will have this years winners on show.

Committee members 2026

Chairman : Manfred Roper
& Milford Dip Allotment Site Representative

Secretary : David Recardo

Treasurer : Gareth Richards
& Elizabeth Flats Allotment Site representative

Committee Members and Allotment Site Representatives

Jon Day	: Sunningdale
Ian Slade	: Larkhill
Ramona Morton	: Newtown
Ian Bramley	: St. Georges
Keith Hartnell	: Turners Barn Lane
Philip Billing	: Rustywell
Dave Potten	: Goar Knap

Dave is also our representative when liaising with Yeovil Town Council.

Other members

Roger Downting whose responsibilities at this years Show 2026 is Show Judge along with Manfred Roper and probably ex-member Alison Read who will Judge the food entries.

We also said farewell to Anne Taylor who is intending to move to Norfolk with her husband to continue their retirement. Anne was last years Show Secretary.
I wish her well and thank her for her efforts as a committee member.

Some of our Shop merchandise with brand Logo on

Our two tone ceramic mug comes in half a dozen different colours

Our cushion with Logo on

Our enamel glazed steel camping cup

A black ink pen with logo

A Baseball cap with logo

A cuffed beanie with logo.

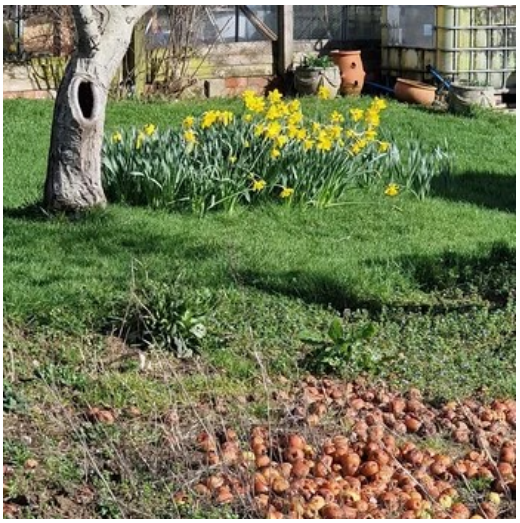
A PomPom Beanie with Logo

Milford Dip Allotment Site

View from the entrance to the site.

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL
BEST KEPT ALLOTMENTS
COMPETITION 2023
Winner
Best Kept Allotment Site
MILFORD DIP
Yeovil Town Council
Allotments For All
Project launch & social
"REVISED DATE"
Friday 16th January
"GROWING TOGETHER
CELEBRATING EFFORT,
PROGRESS, AND
COMMUNITY
TWO WAYS TO WIN ON YOUR ALLOTMENT SITE
Yeovil Town Council
RUBBISH CLEARANCE
COME JOIN THE ESTATES TEAM
SITE: Milford Dip
DATE: 26 January 2026

St Georges Allotment Site



Newtown Allotment Site

Elizabeth Flats Allotment Site

Goar Knap Allotment Site

Sunningdale Allotment Site

Rustywell Allotment Site

Turners Barn Lane Allotment Site

Hillcrest Allotment Site

Larkhill Allotment Site

Monksdale Allotment Site Entrance

Supporting Charity and reckonising therapeutic horticulture as a means to mental wellbeing.

SoH
SEED OF HOPE

SeedofHope.org.uk are one such charity and operate four projects around Somerset and have a site at Street called Three Acre Wood. There they meet every Friday and carry out the process of growing food. They meet and chat over a cup of tea and carry out their tasks until the end of the day.

They also have a sort of ground force team which for a price will clean up your gardening space if you are unable. The Town Council is carrying out a campaign of offering groups and societies an Allotment space to grow with the accent on promoting good mental health practice while enjoying the fruits of your labour.

In our own way, I would love to offer the Charity some financial support to help the recovery process after ill health and help them re-establish the kind of relationship that only Mother Nature can offer. They learn a skill and maybe a future in horticulture and some healthy outdoor exercise in the process.

They have an open day on 26th September where I will go and introduce my self to the project.

Unfortunately the committee could not support a financial donation but I will personally make a monthly donation to the charity and the Association will offer advertising support as a. thumbs up to therapeutic horticulture.

More on the Charity in September.

Final Thoughts

I will be putting this piece of work on the website, so I can share with our members. It was done to show that given some reign all things are possible. I must admit it has been a steady commitment to our cause and well worthwhile.

I hope you like reading it and as always, only if you want to, post a comment on the website.

Happy Allotmenteering to everyone as we start to welcome the Autumn season shortly, as I start my second year as Treasurer.

Many Thanks,

Gareth Richards
Treasurer
Yeovil Allotments Association

Editor : Gareth Richards – Treasurer

Yeovil Allotments Association

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