

Useful Numbers

Police non-emergency contact number

0845 090 1234

Medical contact numbers

Contact your local GP

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

0845 46 47

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
Ltd

www.nsalg.org.uk

Telephone 01865 202 014 – southern region

Bishops Cleeve Parish Council

Tips for making the most of your
allotment garden



Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council

01242 674440

Website www.bishopscleevepc.org

Email

clerk@bishopscleevepc.org

Cultivation of your plot

We expect 75% of your plot to be cultivated with at least 50% being actively used to grow vegetables and soft fruit. Some fruit trees can be planted but must not cover more than 15% of your plot and must be maintained in a healthy and safe condition. You are permitted to put up a shed on your plot as long as you do not cause a nuisance. Weeds do cause a nuisance to neighbours so please try to keep weeds under control even in the winter maintenance period.

A reasonable number of hens and/or rabbits can be kept on your plot for your own family's own consumption. You must adhere to any guidelines provided by a poultry keeping association and/or the RSPCA

The Council has a policy of inspecting the plots on a regular basis and plots that are not meeting the above criteria will be required to be brought up to standard. The process is three warnings and then eviction from the plot.

Paths and Hedges

Plot holders are responsible for maintaining the connecting paths and hedgerows around their plots. You are responsible for installing and maintaining fencing around your plot.

Duty of Care

Allotment tenants have a duty of care to anyone on their plot, whether invited or otherwise.

Consider Your Personal Safety

Does someone know where you are? Do you have a mobile phone with you? Are you the only person on the site? Is there a first aid kit handy?

Bonfires

We would like you to compost as much as possible or use green waste scheme. Fires should never be left unattended. Ensure any fire is properly extinguished to reduce the risk of accidents. Please do not let smoke from your bonfire cause a nuisance to your neighbours or residents in the area.

Pesticides and Chemicals

Children and animals can be good at getting into things they are not supposed to. Keep all chemicals in their original containers, clearly marked and locked out of reach.

Rats

Rats are a problem typically associated with poultry keeping. The high protein chicken feed can support much larger litters of rats. As an allotment tenant you have a responsibility to deal with any rat problem that arises due to your activities on the plot.

Tetanus or Lockjaw

This is caused by bacteria which live in the soil and manure and enters the body through a cut or wound. The illness can be quite serious and can usually be prevented by vaccination.

Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)

This is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by contact with the urine of rats and other animals.

Insurance

Allotment tenants are advised to consider taking out public liability insurance to cover themselves in respect of any claims made against them for injury, loss or damage caused to any person as a result of negligence. Further advice and guidance may be obtained from National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd

Tools

Garden tools can be a hazard if they are left lying around or are not stored appropriately.

Make sure you lock away all your tools as site security starts with the small things. Shed alarms may be available from the local Police.

Always follow the instructions when using any equipment and use any safety devices including safety goggles, ear-defenders and wear appropriate clothing including shoes.

Things not allowed

Please note that the use of barbed wire is not permitted.

Do not use carpet as a weed suppressant and if you have asbestos on your plot please have it removed professionally.

We ask that you only use hose pipes to fill up water butts and not to water your plants directly from the standing pipes.

Alcohol and other illegal substances are not permitted on the allotment site

User Group

Bishop's Cleeve Allotment Committee has set up a users group which has 5 elected plot holders to represent the views of the allotment tenants as well as being able to work together to offer support and advice and to gain other benefits such as bulk buying discounts.

Every Spring all plot holders are invited to put their names forward for election to the users group. The users group meet with 3 nominated Councillors on a quarterly basis. The User group have use of a notice board on the allotment site and any updates are posted on the Allotment page of the Council's website.

Plants

There are several plants to watch out for on the allotment including nettles, brambles, cow parsley, ragwort. Did you know that the sap of a parsnip plant left to go to seed can cause nasty blisters?