

## **A-Z Guide to the London Road Allotments**

### **All you need to know**

**SSALGA manages the London Road allotments in Stony Stratford – a 6.5-acre site which is leased from the Town Council. There are 168 individual plots, each measuring approximately 5 poles  
Approx 126 square metres**

The Allotments are run by **Volunteers** and we always welcome new recruits either to join the Committee or to help on working parties or in the shop throughout the year.

### **Bees**

There are two bee hives on Plot 83 and they are looked after by our registered beekeeper, Rachael Wilson. If anyone has any concerns about the bees at any time, please contact Rachael directly on 07801 854884. There is a 6ft green netting fence around the bee enclosure which makes the bees fly high and not into the path of any plot holders. There is also a combination lock on the gate to the enclosure, as access is not allowed to any plot holders unless accompanied by Rachael. If you would like to join Rachael on her weekly early Friday morning inspection, please email the Secretary, Jane on [ssalga.digstonyssec@gmail.com](mailto:ssalga.digstonyssec@gmail.com) and she will make the arrangements. Rachael will provide the protective bee suit/hat but, you will need to bring along a tight-fitting pair of Marigold gloves and a pair of long wellington boots. There is also a communal viewing/sitting area alongside the enclosure and all plot holders are welcome to make use of it.

### **Bonfires and BBQs**

Bonfires and BBQs are not allowed on site.

### **Cars**

There are no parking facilities on site.

Vehicles are only allowed on site for brief and very occasional unloading purposes but should not be driven down or parked on the ridings. This is to prevent damage being caused to plots and grass which makes mowing difficult. Vehicle access should not be considered during wet periods and Winter months.

### **Carpets**

We do not encourage the use of carpets for paths or weed prevention. They are not environmentally friendly and are costly to dispose of when plots are vacated.

### **Children**

Children are welcome on site but must be accompanied by the plot holder. Please keep them on your plot and ensure they do not roam free around the site or ridings.

### **Dogs**

Dogs are allowed on site but must be kept under control and on a lead at all times.

## **Gate Locks**

The gate locks are designed so as to retain the key when unlocked which prevents accidentally leaving the gates unlocked. Also, the locks are marked 'Inside' and 'Outside'. Please ensure 'Inside' is facing into the allotments and 'Outside' is facing into the road when locking up, depending on whether you are entering or leaving. Please do not oil or try to carry out any maintenance on the locks, but contact Alan, the Site Manager on [admcmaster1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:admcmaster1@yahoo.co.uk) if there are any problems.

## **Green Bins**

We have 6 green bins located at the Malletts Close gates. These are for the use of ploholders and are for green waste which cannot be composted and is not feasible to take home. Please refrain from putting clods of soil, stones and wood in the bins.

## **Keys**

Upon taking over a plot, an initial, refundable key deposit of £10 is payable. However, if you require an extra key, please email Alan, the Site Manager on [admcmaster1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:admcmaster1@yahoo.co.uk), to obtain one which will cost £15 per key and is also refundable. We use a special Abloy lock and key which cannot be cut or copied, hence the cost.

## **Kings Seeds**

In September, we send an email out advising plot holders that we have the Kings Seeds Catalogue. Seeds etc can be ordered through the SSALGA as we receive a discount on bulk orders. You complete the order form; we collate all the information and place the order with Kings. When we receive the order back, they are all individually packed and an email is sent to all plot holders asking them to collect their order.

## **Manure**

We have a regular delivery of manure which any plot holder is welcome to wheelbarrow to their plot. It is free, but if you do take it, we ask that you make a small donation when you pay your rent in March.

Private manure deliveries can be arranged with our suppliers for approximately £25 per trailer. Ploholders are responsible for letting Roger on site and for shutting the gates. The loads are normally delivered to either gate (subject to agreement/prior arrangement) and must be walked by wheelbarrow to plots.

For a bigger load, please contact Roger on 07780774415

## **Paths**

The maintenance of the paths between each plot is the joint responsibility of the two ploholders adjacent to each path. In addition, plot holders are required to strim, cut and maintain the edges around their plots on a regular basis.

The main ridings are mowed by the General Maintenance Team (new volunteers always welcomed).

## **Plot Deposit**

In addition to the key deposit, a further deposit is payable to cover any potential clearance costs which may occur when a member relinquishes their plot or their tenancy is otherwise terminated. Both deposits are refundable, the first on return of the key and the second if the plot has been left in a reasonable condition.

## **Plot Judging**

We have an occasional low key, plot judging competition, normally around July. Certificates are placed on the plot for the winners of various categories, including Best Overall Newcomer.

## **Plot Inspections**

Monthly plot inspections are carried out by the General Maintenance Team. If you have any concerns or are encountering any problems, please contact the Secretary to keep us updated. If we have not heard from you and your plot is inspected and it is not being cultivated or is in a bad state, the Committee will send you a letter to ask you to take action and to see if there are any problems we can assist with.

## **Recycling Materials**

We encourage plot holders to recycle/upcycle as much as possible, but please consider the types of materials used as these will need to be removed when relinquishing plots. Also please avoid hoarding materials that neighbouring plots may consider an unsightly mess.

## **Rent**

Rent is payable annually in March. Dates are confirmed following the annual AGM in March.

## **Ridings**

Plot holders should use the main ridings to navigate the site and not the paths between the plots.

## **Rubbish Disposal**

We have no facility for disposing of rubbish and this must be cleared from the plot and taken to the tip by the plotheholders. Please do not dump any rubbish by the shop or on site.

## **Shed and Greenhouse Bases**

We request that shed and greenhouse bases are made using removable materials e.g., slabs or bricks and are not made permanent by the use of concrete. Permanent structures e.g., brick walls, concreted paths, concreted-in fence posts etc. are not permitted.

## **Shop**

We have a shop on site at the Malletts Close end of the allotments. We sell various items including compost, farmyard manure, soil improvers, chicken pellets, Growmore, potato fertiliser, sulphate of ammonia, ant powder, lime, Garotta (compost maker), Jeyes Fluid, canes, fleece, etc. The price list is displayed at the Shop and contains useful information on how to use some of the products.

The shop hours are: -

From late February to July – Saturdays and Sundays – 10.00am to 11.30am.

From August to September – Sundays only – 10.00am to 11.00am.

We do have tools etc given to us by plot holders and, when available, these can be bought from the shop for a small donation.

The shop is run by Committee Members and plot holders. If you would like to be put on the Shop Rota, please email the Secretary, Jane on [ssalga.digstonyssec@gmail.com](mailto:ssalga.digstonyssec@gmail.com), new recruits are always welcome.

### **Taps and Watering**

Taps for plot watering are situated at the ends of each riding. We encourage you to harvest and store rainwater from your shed and greenhouse roofs as our water bill is very high. Watering your plot from a hosepipe is **not** allowed, but you can connect a hosepipe to the tap and fill your water butts up. Please ensure that your tap and hosepipe connectors are all in good order and not leaking and wasting precious water, which we do have to pay for. Please report any faulty or leaking taps to the Site Manager, Alan, on [admcmaster1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:admcmaster1@yahoo.co.uk). Plot holders filling watering cans have priority over connected hosepipes.

### **Vehicular Access and Parking**

There are no parking facilities on site.

Vehicles are only allowed on site for brief and occasional unloading purposes but should not be driven down or parked on the ridings. This is to prevent damage being caused to plots and grass which makes mowing difficult. Vehicle access should not be considered during wet periods and Winter months.

### **Visitors**

We are happy for family members or close friends to visit your plot. However, please ensure all visitors remain on your plot and do not walk around the site unaccompanied. Large groups or social events are not allowed to take place on the site.

### **Volunteers**

The Committee, shop, mowing and maintenance of the allotments is all carried out by volunteers. If you would like to join the Committee, shop rota or working parties, please contact the Secretary, Jane on [ssalga.digstonyssec@gmail.com](mailto:ssalga.digstonyssec@gmail.com). All recruits are very welcome, and all help is appreciated.

### **Wheelbarrows**

We do have some wheelbarrows on site. These are for the use of everyone but not to be kept on a plot for sole use, but rather returned to the end of the site that they were taken from e.g., London Road or Malletts Close.

### **Work Parties**

The allotment is run by volunteers and new recruits are always welcome. We have regular work parties throughout the year and an email is sent out to all plot holders notifying them of the date etc. We would appreciate it, if you could spare a few hours and join in our constant endeavour to keep the site maintained and tidy.