



NEW MILTON
TOWN COUNCIL



ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

Dear Allotment Holders

I hope you have all been enjoying your allotmenting this year and have a bounty of fruits, veg and herbs to marvel at! The changeable weather has been a challenge for all of us I'm sure, encouraging more weed growth, meaning more work! Please keep on top of the weeds, for your benefit and so as not to affect your neighbours. On recent allotment inspections we have seen a lot of the dreaded bindweed growing – **you need to remove this asap and dispose of it appropriately!** And not in your compost bin! (or your neighbours compost!)

It's been great to see flowers in bloom on allotments, encouraging the pollinators and a real delight to see all the lovely colours!

Sorry there will be no Annual Meeting again this year, but it is something we want to arrange for next year. If anyone has suggestions for a guest speaker or topics for next year please let me know.

We will be changing the padlock combi code in the Autumn so look out for the notification of the new number.

Kind regards.

Joanna Hayward, Allotment Administrator
New Milton Town Council

NEW MILTON PLANT A TREE INITIATIVE

As we all know, trees are living, breathing monuments and as a precious natural asset are crucial in our fight against climate change. In recognition of the benefits of trees enhancing our already special environment and ensuring our long-term well-being, New Milton Town Council has introduced The Plant a Tree Initiative. Inviting residents to contribute and participate in planting trees in our green spaces.

Further details about the Plant a Tree Initiative are available on our website:

[Plant-a-Tree-Policy.pdf \(newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

[Plant-a-Tree-details-and-application.pdf \(newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

- The terms and conditions of your tenancy agreement can be viewed here [tenancy-agreement.pdf \(newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk\)](#)
- We've had a lot of call outs to **broken / missing padlocks** – they are expensive to replace - **please take care of them.**
- During the winter we had to repair some burst pipes on our allotment sites – **this was costly and avoidable!** **Do not turn on the taps during winter!**
- **Reminder to cut the grass** on the paths around your plot – this is a condition of your tenancy! **Keep them tidy please.**
- Keep the rear boundaries clear so they **don't damage the fences of private residential properties,**
- **Don't let the weeds go to seed** - affecting your neighbours plots!
- **Stay safe on the allotment** – keep the gates padlocked – and whizz those numbers round. **We don't want to see the combi code on show!**
- **Stay safe!** Look after yourselves and respect your allotment neighbours.
- **If children or dogs accompany you to the allotment site, ensure they remain in your plot area.**

COMPOSTING

Some common composting tips

Green: Grass clippings; soft, leafy plants including annual weeds; fruit and vegetables, uncooked kitchen waste.

Brown: prunings and hedge trimmings (ideally shredded), woodchip, leaves, paper and card (torn up or shredded), straw, and plant stems.

Turning the heap

Turning the heap adds air; air is necessary for composting to occur. If the heap is too wet or becomes compacted, then the composting process is slower as less air is available.

When is the compost ready?

Garden compost can take between six months and two years to reach maturity. Mature compost will be dark brown, with a crumbly soil-like texture and a smell resembling damp woodland.

Nitrogen comes from lush, green material such as grass clippings.

Carbon comes from brown material such as woody stems and cardboard.

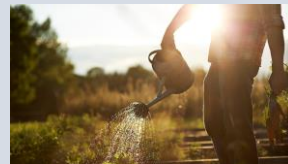
You can also add eggshells, natural fibres like cotton or wool, wood ash – but not too much.

Don't add

- Diseased plants
- Perennial weeds
- Cooked food
- Citrus (slow to rot and very acidic, which reduces worm activity)
- Raw meat
- Dairy products
- Gloss or colour-printed paper
- Ash from coal fires
- Cat or dog faeces

Water Wisely

The National Allotment Society have produced an interesting leaflet on water use on Allotments [A5 Water 260213 HiRes.pdf \(nsalg.org.uk\)](#). Worth a read. And remember every roof surface, run-off from polytunnels as well, are a potential source of water capture. You can secure guttering and feed the rainwater directly into a water butt.



WILDLIFE

A reminder from one of our Allotment Holders, Bob Lord, about reporting sightings of slow worms on allotments and also about removing three-cornered garlic/leek which is a non-native, invasive plant which can be seen flowering around town in Spring.

Community Matters

New Milton Men's Shed are a local group of men, and women welcome too! Sharing skills, knowledge, conversation, and company. Further details on their website: [Home | Newmiltonmensshed](#)

Stay up to date on all things **New Milton** – a community website sharing news and events. [Welcome to NewMilton.Net - The Community Site for New Milton](#)

Bee Friendly information about the New Forest Bee Rescue Initiative at **Conservation Connection New Forest** at [Bee-Friendly Blogs – Conservation Connection \(conservationconnectionnfs.org.uk\)](#)

