



# GROWING IN GOSPORT

## AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT BY GOSPORT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION TO HELP PEOPLE TO GROW VEGETABLES

Each year on the Allotments we see people take on an allotment plot who have limited experience of how to get the most out of the land. Some underestimate the time that is needed and often they give up, or they just don't know there is a right way up to plant a potato! At the same time, we know there remains huge interest in growing produce for ourselves that has not travelled hundreds or thousands of miles to get to our table. Those who do grow their own fruit and vegetables know the taste of home or locally grown produce cannot be beaten.

So, Gosport Allotment Association has set up the Growing in Gosport Project. The concept is straightforward - we will not dig the ground, sow the seeds or pull the weeds – but we will show you how on a mini allotment plot of your own. You get to eat what you grow and will then hopefully move on to your own plot the following year. Gosport Borough Council has provided allotments at Brockhurst Allotment Site for which we pay standard rent. For 2021 our aim is to get “trainees” assembled in February 2021, COVID restrictions permitting, and then continue with regular practical classes for the rest of the year, although most activity will be in the main growing season from March to August. Classes will take place on most Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 Noon. You need to be aware there are no toilet facilities available on the site.

The basic eligibility criteria are: you must be a Gosport Borough resident, aged 18 years or over and able to work/dig/weed your mini-allotment.

Gosport Borough Council encourages those who join the Growing Project to apply to join the Council Allotment Waiting List for a plot of your own on a site of your preference but you should note that waiting lists have grown significantly. You can choose to take a plot on your own when you reach the top of the list for your preferred site. Details of the sites available are on the Council Website: <https://www.gosport.gov.uk/sections/your-council/council-services/leisure-amenities/allotments/> or by phone to 08000 198598 or by visiting the Town Hall.

The Association will provide compost for seed sowing and a normal range of vegetable seeds. That is cheaper than asking everyone to buy their own seeds and not being able to sow all the seed due to limited space. To cover these costs there will be a £25 charge due to the Association. Additionally, and this cannot be avoided, if you wish to attend your plot outside of Saturday mornings, which is recommended, then you will need a gate key for which there is a refundable deposit charge of £25 and the Association will arrange this through Gosport Borough Council.

So, if you or someone you know wants to get some training on how to grow your own vegetables through the 2021 growing season then please encourage them sign up – more detail overleaf.

Jim More

Chairman

Gosport Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association

## GROWING IN GOSPORT PROJECT – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Your Surname	
Your First Name (or preferred name)	
Your preferred means of communication (choose one)	Provide the details for your preference in the appropriate box below
Email – provide email address OR,	
Home Phone – provide number OR,	
Text – provide mobile number OR,	
Letter to home – provide home address.	

***The information you provide will only be used to contact you about the Growing Project and will be held by the Project Leader for this purpose***

Not everyone will want to be allocated a mini-plot because they have their allotment plot or space to grow elsewhere. So, we need to know if you want to be allocated a plot - tick your preference below.	
Yes, I want to be allocated a mini-plot.	
No, I have my own allotment or space to grow.	

By submitting this form you are confirming that:

- You are eligible according to the criteria list above.
- You are able to work the plot – by digging/weeding/planting etc
- You are committed to attending regular training sessions.
- You are committed to maintain your own mini-plot (if allocated) in a decent condition.
- You accept there are costs and undertake to pay these to the Association.
- You will eat what you grow or give the produce away to impress your friends and family.

You can email this form to [gahaga.newsletter@ntlworld.com](mailto:gahaga.newsletter@ntlworld.com) or post to/drop off at:

Gosport Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association,

Brockhurst Allotment Store, Military Road, Gosport, PO12 3BF.



***This project would not be possible without the support of those who have purchased community lottery tickets and selected “Growing in Gosport” as their cause. You can support the Project by buying a lottery ticket online at [www.gosportcommunitylottery.co.uk](http://www.gosportcommunitylottery.co.uk) or by phone to 023 931 90222 and the cause is “Growing in Gosport”.***

***Many thanks and good luck.***