Dunchurch Allotments



By Paul Sanders

Walking around the allotments it becomes evident to the casual visitor that everyone has their own way of managing a plot. Experienced allotment holders will over time, start to categorise their fellow plot holders into certain gardening types as they observe their cultivation practises. There is no hard and fast division between the types but there is a definite mindset as to how they operate their gardening practice.



The Traditional Gardener follows the gardening practices laid down over generations. Digging their plot over at the end of the season, applying liberal amounts of manure and fertilizer, treating pests and diseases with all sorts of chemical treatments and growing a limited range of vegetable varieties. It is these gardeners who have been the backbone of allotment sites for decades.

The Floral Gardener tends to be the outlier on allotment sites. Preferring to fill their plot with all sorts of flowering plants, these allotmenteers have a passion for colourful angiosperms. Their plot tends to be less rigid than the typical veg plot, looking more like a house garden with mixed border of both annuals and perennials laid out like National Trust borders.

The Seasonal or Casual Gardener really gets into gardening when temperatures warm in the spring. They are passionate, for a while anyway, with lots of frantic clearing, digging and planting.

The Scarecrow Gardener – what type is he?

But the novelty of gardening wears off as temperatures warm and the plants demand constant upkeep. The plot is then taken over by weeds and the vegetable plants so lovingly planted disappear into the developing mass of green carpet.

The Exacting Gardener lies at the other end of the scale to the Casual Gardener. On their plot not a weed can be seen, the plants whether veg or flowers are generally laid out in neat rows. Lines of plants are meticulously spaced to the nearest millimetre. The most important tools for the Exacting Gardener are the ruler and set square enabling the spacing and arrangements to lie well within tolerable limits.

The Eco Gardener has been making an appearance in recent years. These gardeners like to think of themselves as leading the charge to a better future. They will use terms like mulch, organic, green manure and companion planting when discussing their gardening approach. You are also likely to observe unusual procedures and lots of experimentation as they try out the latest findings from obscure publications and scientific journals.

Whatever the approach, the allotments in Dunchurch continue to be the place where friendly and neighbourly behaviours are practiced and camaraderie in a common pursuit experienced.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY 5TH MAY 2023

FODS PRESENTS A VILLAGE CELEBRATION

Come together Dunchurch on The Heath on Friday 5th May 2023 at a special beacon lighting to mark the coronation of King Charles III

Pack your picnic, nibbles, blanket, chairs and vocal chords

Wave your flags and join in with the favourites such as Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia and the National Anthem

Event start is 7pm

Please note parking is not available at this site

This is a public space – please be considerate and take your rubbish home

Updates on the event will be posted on FODS Facebook Group page

