

Uckfield Town Council in association with Staverton Nursery

Allotment Competition 2020 Categories and Judging criteria

In the first week in July, two independent judges from Staverton Nursery will assess the allotments entered into the Allotment Competition and allocate points in accordance with the criteria (see below) and the winners will be notified shortly afterwards. The winners will then be invited to the Allotment Conference in September to receive their prizes.

Entry Forms

To enter the allotment categories below an entry form must be completed and submitted. These are available online and also in paper copies from the Civic Centre.

The size of plot will not be a factor in the competition.

Best kept allotment

There will be a prize of £25 in garden vouchers for the best kept allotment on each of the five allotment sites in Uckfield as follows:

1. West Park
2. Bell Lane
3. Ridgewood
4. Framfield Road
5. Bird in Eye

This category will be judged against the information provided on the entry form and the following criteria:

- **Condition of the plot**
Tidy, free of perennial and annual weeds but allowing for innovative growing techniques such as organic gardening, companion planting, no dig gardening etc
- **Good workmanship**
Evidence of good husbandry, propagation, growing techniques, composting
- **Quality of crops, flowers, fruit and vegetables and plants**
Free from disease and pests with a good range of crops grown (or a good variety of plants where a plot is given over to monoculture)
- **Water conservation**
Evidence of water harvesting, water retention (mulching) and crops requiring less watering.
- **Encouragement of wildlife**
Evidence of planting to encourage pollinators, areas left to encourage other wildlife such as hedgehogs, beetles etc.
- **Use of recycled materials**
Evidence of re-using and recycling materials especially plastic pots. Innovative re-use of materials.
- **Condition of paths, garden buildings etc**
Kept in a good state of repair, attractive and fit for purpose

Overall winner

There will be an overall winner chosen from the five best kept allotment winners whose name will be added to the plaque held at the Civic Centre.

People's Choice Award

The people's choice award allows all allotment holders on a site to vote for their favourite allotment/holder on that site. The winners in this category will receive £10 in garden vouchers. Voting will be via an online form (paper ones will be available if needed). One vote per person. We ask voters to consider the following when making their choice:-

- The Allotment Holder
 - Are they friendly? Are they helpful? Do they offer advice or suggestions to other plot holders?
 - Do they share surplus seedlings/plants or produce with other plot holders when they have them?
 - Do they offer to water when another plot holder is away?
- The Allotment
 - Is it kept in a reasonable condition bearing in mind how often the plot holder is able to tend it?
 - Are weeds kept to a minimum and managed so they don't spread?

Ecological Award

This prize of £25 in garden vouchers will be judged on Reuse, Reduce and Recycle. The judges will use the information provided on the entry form to judge the allotment on

- How the plot holder reuses items such as plastic pots
- The efforts made to conserve water (rainwater harvesting if possible) and reducing the use of water by using mulch or growing varieties requiring less water.
- Encouraging insects and wildlife to the plot. Natural or organic approaches to pest control.
- Recycling other items on the allotment.

Children's award

This category is open to children under 16 and also offers a prize of £25 in garden vouchers. They must complete the children's entry form and state what it is that they want to be judged. The judges will be able to assess the item even if it has not completely matured.

Uckfield Town Council would like to thank Staverton Nursery which is sponsoring this competition and providing all the prizes.