

Uckfield Town Council in association with Staverton Nursery

Allotment Competition 2024 Categories and Judging Criteria

In the first two weeks of 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 the autumn to receive their prizes.

We have changed the rules slightly this year where anyone who has won a Best Kept, Ecological Award or Overall Winner award in the previous competition only - in this case, 2023 - will be unable to enter that category. This is similar to the RHS approach at its flower shows. We hope this will allow for new or novice allotment holders to feel they may have a chance of winning.

Nomination and Entry Forms

A nomination form or entry form must be completed and submitted for the Children's Award, Scarecrow Competition and Funniest Vegetable categories by Friday 28 June 2024. These are available online and also in paper copy from the Civic Centre. Once you have submitted your nomination for these categories, we will provide a flag to place on the location.

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

On the back of recent feedback from allotment holders, we are returning to an automatic entry policy for the Best Kept, Ecological Award and Overall Winner categories.

Best Kept Allotment

There will be a prize of £25 in Staverton Nursery 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 according to 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, etc.
- **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.

Ecological Award

This prize of £25 in Staverton Nursery vouchers will be judged on how well the plot fits the phrase: Reuse, Reduce and Recycle. The judges will use the following criteria 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 Staverton Nursery vouchers. They must complete the Children's Award 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. We will provide a flag for children to use to make it easy to identify their entries.

Scarecrow Competition - a bit of fun open to all

For a chance to win a basket of goodies, enter our Scarecrow Competition. Simply complete the entry form and install a scarecrow on your allotment ready for judging in July. Entries can be as creative as people wish. The judges are really looking forward to seeing what allotment holders come up with again this year!

Funniest Vegetable Award

New to the Allotment Competition this year, we are opening a Funniest Vegetable Award for all the misshapen veg out there that deserve their moment in the spotlight! Whether it's a curly carrot, ugly onion, or abstract aubergine, you can enter your crops to face off in a clash of the funniest vegetables.

So don't throw away those oddities... bring them to show the world, and be in with a chance of winning a special prize!

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

