

Young gardeners get chance to learn from the best

Sprout, a Nottingham environmental project for young people aged 16-25, has got together with an organisation called Nottingham Organic Gardeners to give youngsters the chance to find out more about allotment gardening - including how to grow fruit and vegetables.

Nottingham Organic Gardeners has an allotment at the Whitemoor Allotments on Wilkinson Street, Whitemoor. From September 5th, Sprout and Nottingham Organic Gardeners will be running regular Saturday gardening sessions for young people at the allotment - on 5th September, 26th September, 10th October, 24th October, 7th November and 21st November.

The sessions will run from 10am - 2pm approximately and will include lunch - made from produce grown at the allotment. Giving young people the chance to learn how to make compost for instance, as well as how to grow a wide variety of fruit and vegetables.

The first session on 5th September has been planned to coincide with the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) 'Dig Together Day'. 'Dig Together Day' is the first event of its kind and it's been launched by the RHS to bring together Britain's gardening clubs to share knowledge and inspire young gardeners.

Rachel Wicks from Sprout explains:

"Our project with Nottingham Organic Gardeners is a great example of what the RHS is trying to achieve with 'Dig Together Day'. The sessions will give young gardeners the chance to learn from experienced gardeners, whilst older gardeners can enjoy passing their knowledge onto the next generation of allotment enthusiasts.

A great deal of gardening is about practical knowledge and experience so it's very important that we bring different generations together and make sure that gardening know-how is passed on. Plus of course, the sessions are designed to really inspire young people and show them that gardening has many benefits. For example, growing your own food is a great way to save money whilst inspiring you to eat healthily and get some exercise."

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Ros Pither of Nottingham Organic Gardeners agrees:

"We're developing our allotment as a demonstration allotment to show people as many different methods of organic gardening as possible. For example, we've recently installed a poly tunnel at the allotment, thanks to funding from Awards for All, so we'll be able to grow vegetables all year round. Plus it's also a useful place to keep dry when it rains! We love working with other people to try to encourage others to garden organically and we're very excited about our project with Sprout. It's a fantastic way of showing the next generation how it's possible to grow food in a sustainable way."

RHS Director General, Inga Grimsey says:

"We know that gardening clubs are the custodians of grassroots gardening. They all have fantastic knowledge, advice and tips. But like all clubs they need the support of new members. By organising 'Dig Together Day' we hope more people will get bitten by the gardening bug and the knowledge these clubs hold will be discovered by new generations."

Anyone aged 16-25 wishing to join in with the sessions at Whitemoor Allotments can contact:

**Jabran Ahmad or Rachel Wicks on 0115 970 8200 or 07528 481510
or email jabran@partnershipcouncil.co.uk or rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk.**

The sessions are free to attend but please wear old clothes and sturdy footwear.
Gloves and refreshments will be provided. No previous gardening experience necessary!

Sprout was set up by the Partnership Council charity in January 2008 to help young people set up their own environmental projects.

Nottingham Organic Gardeners was set up to promote the knowledge of organic methods of cultivation, whilst encouraging an interest in sustainable gardening and a more localised food culture. The group is the local branch of the Soil Association and Garden Organic, plus its affiliated to the RHS.

To find out more about Nottingham Organic Gardeners please visit <http://www.nogs.btik.org>

For more information on the RHS 'Dig Together Day' and for a list of events happening in Nottingham, please visit www.rhs.org.uk/digtogetherday or email affsocs@rhs.org.uk

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