



The National
Allotment Society

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd

A National View.

What is the National?

- The National Allotment Society is a not-for-profit organisation which exists to support the needs of all allotment holders across the U.K.



What do we do!

- We campaign against government legislation which threatens allotments, we engage with local authorities to ensure they meet with their statutory obligations, and we offer **free legal advice** to allotment holders as and when they need it.



But what else do you do?

- On a day to day basis we are there to educate plot holders with growing advice,



- to support schools into allotment growing,



and to be the voice of allotmenters
up and down the country.



What are allotments?



1922 Allotment Act

- This act defined that an allotment was an area “not exceeding 40 poles(quarter of an acre) in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself and his family.

Anything larger than this is a smallholding or farm.

How big is an allotment?

- Traditionally allotments have been 300sq yards-ten rods, poles or perches.
- Following metrication this approximates to 250 sq metres.
- This is the size the National recommends!
- 16 allotments to the acre.

Smaller Allotment Sizes.

- Certain nationally known gardeners recommended that allotments should be smaller.
- This seems reasonable on the surface-but it is one thing for allotment societies to split their allotments-giving tenants less land,
- and another thing for builders to make all allotments smaller to increase their profit margin.

How can I get an allotment?

- Find your local allotment site – seek out the landlord (Council- or Lambton Greenscape 360) and put your name down.



The Waiting List

- Allotment sites should be run well, vacant allotments should not be left un-worked, and weedy.
- Allotment managers should keep an up to date list of their vacancies and fill them as soon as possible.
- Names should be kept on a **dated waiting list**, and prospective tenants should be informed of possible plots in **chronological order**.



Rights and Responsibilities

- Everyone has the right to work an allotment.



Allotments should be allocated fairly- there are no “mates rates” on well run allotments.

- Every allotment holder has the responsibility to work their allotment *properly*.
- Committees have the responsibility *to explain* the tenancy agreement to the tenant.



Allotments are assets.

- The allotment was created to provide home grown food for poorly paid rural and industrial workers. (Poor Lots- & Fuel Allotments)
- They are now great assets to the community.
- They provide a focus for many people to gather and act in community creating synergy.
- They are unofficial “health centres” - “areas for depression relief” - and “medical recovery”

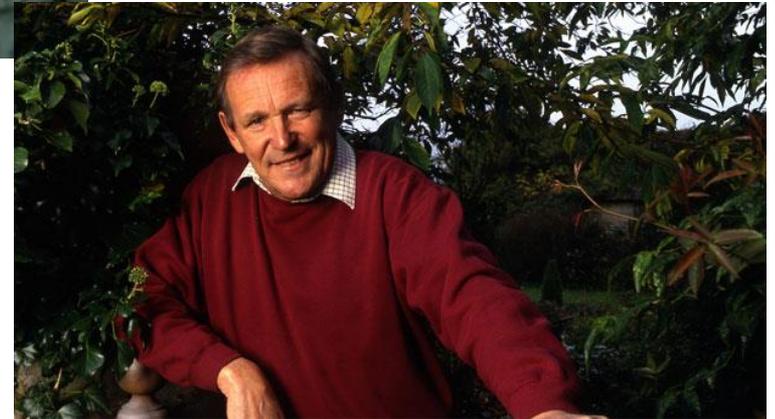


Mehrdad Garousi

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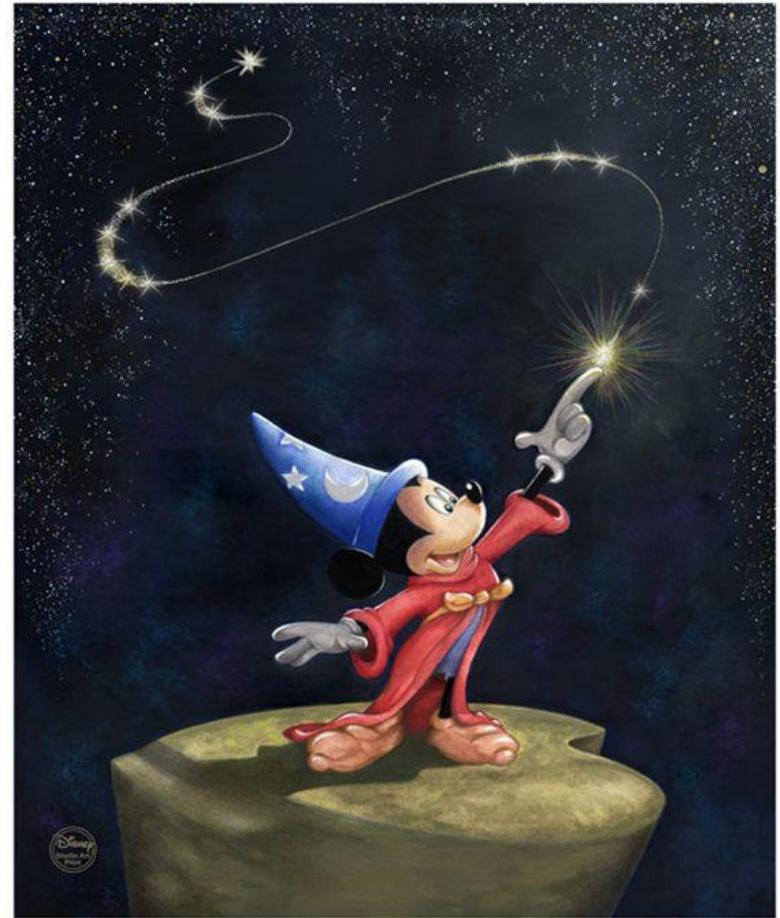
- As well as assisting in medical and mental recovery, allotments are places where loneliness can be countered.
- Research into this area is growing and the medical benefits of gardening are well documented. (Wood, Pretty & Griffin-Oct 2015 Journal of Public Health)
- These assets can be registered through the web-site:
- community.assets@communities.gsi.gov.uk

T.V. Gardeners



Working an allotment is not instant.

- How much work is involved?
- Having an allotment does require on-going commitment to cultivate and maintain it to a reasonable standard. This inevitably will require a degree of physical activity and may present a challenge, particularly if the plot has been neglected for some time. The right approach is to work a little but often, and remember that it can take several seasons to get an allotment fully under control.
- (CHAS –website)



Allotment Popularity

- Allotment popularity has always gone in cycles.
- The idea of having an allotment can be very appealing.
- The reality on a wet October morning in Hounslow may be somewhat different.
- But if these allotment assets to the community are sold off-what then?



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Preserve

Protect

Promote

