



It's mid January and it is only 9 weeks (at the time of writing) until the clocks change. Milder winters and increasing daylight hours mean its time to get outside. Here in the Parish we have allotments.....and at this time we have some plots available from starter plots and upwards. We also have some really great allotment holders always happy to help and support new gardeners.....so if you have ever fancied the idea please feel free to contact the Parish Clerk for an application form. If you would like to visit the allotments to see what goes on please feel free to contact Phil Nathan on 07939224922 to arrange a visit.....meantime here is some information about allotments. Application forms can be obtained from the parish clerk on [clerk@ormesby.org](mailto:clerk@ormesby.org)

**Ormesby St Margaret with Scratby Parish Council Allotments**  
**Cromer Road Ormesby.**

Allotments have been in existence for hundreds of years with evidence pointing back to Anglo Saxon times. The system we have today has it's roots in the Nineteenth century when land was given to the poor to produce to feed their families. The allotments act of 1908 made it a statutory duty of councils to provide land for allotments but following the Great War the Allotments Act of 1922 ensured that many hundreds of allotment sites were opened (and still are) across the country. The 1925 Act gave the plot holders statutory rights to ensure their tenancy. Fair rents are paid in return for an "allotted "amount of land hence the name.

In the early part of the last century allotments were for many a very important part of life as a way of feeding their families. This continued throughout the second world war and the following years however a change in lifestyles and an improving economic situation allowed many sites to become under used, some actually closed, however like many things people's attitudes changed- Grow Your Own replaced Dig for Victory. The past 20 years have seen a resurgence in allotments with many sites maintaining a waiting list as people become keen to start growing their own produce having concerns about food miles and the use of pesticides. The benefits of having a plot were also shown during the Covid pandemic when the government allowed people to work on their allotments during the first lockdown. The weather was good, the plots were very busy and the only difference was that the chat with your neighbour had to be at a social distance which was agreed as the length of a garden rake!

Ormesby has approximately 60 plots with a vast range of vegetables fruit and flower not to forget chickens and bees! Parking is available on a small lay-by on the main road with some plot parking available. On a decent day you are certain to find someone to have a chat with, we are a friendly bunch young and old and just enjoying growing "stuff" and enjoying the fresh air the wildlife and the countryside. Leases normally run from the 1st October but if we have free plots (which at time of writing we do) we start new tenants as soon as we can. We will be having an open day in August and the Village Flower Show takes place in early September.

