



A Walking Tour in Pictures – Midmar Allotments Edinburgh

We have considered ourselves very fortunate during the Covid lockdown to have an allotment which has afforded us the opportunity to flex our muscles each day with the reward of a steady supply of fruit and veg – a win win situation! My daily visits entail a 3 mile round trip on foot or by bike which when on foot I can extend by going over Blackford Hill or down to the Hermitage of Braid and on to the Braids golf course. Spending three or four hours on my plot at a time also clocks up a few miles each week!

Naturally I am biased but I believe Midmar is probably one of the most beautiful allotment sites in the UK being situated beside Blackford Hill and the Hermitage of Braid, with views to Arthurs Seat. It recently featured in an online Guardian article 'We Feel Blessed' (16th April)

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/gallery/2020/apr/16/we-feel-blessed-edinburgh-allotment-holders-in-pictures>

The site has been there almost 100 years and I have had my plot for almost 20! Every so often plot holders and locals have to fight to protect the land around it (The Paddock) from being sold for development which inevitably would threaten the future of the allotments. Usually there is so much work to be done that I just go to my plot and no further. However, having more time led me to take my camera and walk round the two fields seeing what was going on elsewhere and this is what I found.

An interesting array of sheds, shelters and greenhouses



View of the allotments from Blackford Hill



Communal Hut and Composting Toilet

The communal hut is used for meetings, open days where it is turned into a cafe and barbecues at key times of the year. It has solar panelling as has the toilet building to supply hot water when required.



Recycling, Waste Management and Crop Protection

Allotments by nature encourage the use of recycling anything and everything and you see some interesting reuse of odd items such as the climbing frame below to support netting and broccoli plants and old office drawers have come in useful for storage in this greenhouse.



There are only two bins for all 163 plots and no green waste can be disposed of to encourage composting.



Finally – What it's all about



Di McGuire
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