



Allerton Allotments Society (AAS)

Newsletter (18) April 2026

Updates

The Sharing Shelves which are situated next to the Big Shed have unfortunately been used to dump broken items and damaged pots. This is not their purpose. Please only put useful items to share on them and dispose of your rubbish responsibly. You can now recycle plant pots in your blue bin (except black pots.)

Big Shed Opening Times

The Big shed will be open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10am – 12pm.

Social Events

Thank you to everyone who came to our Easter Social and a big thankyou to all the cake makers. There really was a delicious selection.

Sundays in May – Seedling Swap each Sunday in May in the Big Shed.

Mushroom Inoculation – Sam has managed to acquire a number of logs from a local tree that had fallen. He is planning on organising a mushroom inoculation workshop on 3rd May @ £10 per person. Book a place or buy an inoculated log from the Big shed asap.

Dealing with Docks

It's that time of year when weeds really start to get going and there is a noticeable increase in the number of Docks on site. These really need dealing with to prevent their spread.



Young plants



Mature plant with seed heads

Docks spread easily by seed which they produce in very large numbers. Young plants quickly develop a long tap root and can regenerate from small sections of root if left behind when weeding. To control them the RHS recommend you

- Hoe off small seedlings
- Dig or fork out plants – ideally when young before the tap root has become deep. With awkwardly positioned plants first remove as much root as you can and then remove regrowth when it appears. This will weaken it over time but requires persistence!
- Mow regularly
- Smother seedlings using a mulch of cardboard and organic matter
- Smother plants using mulch or heavy grade matting

Remember **not** to add them to your compost bin.

Much more information can be found at www.rhs.org.uk/weeds/docks

Bluebells

The AAS byelaws state that Bluebells are not allowed on site. Spanish Bluebells are a non-native invasive species and as such we should not be growing them on site. We have a lot of them! It would be unrealistic to ask you to eradicate them however if you could make some effort to reduce them that would be much appreciated.

Paths

The grass is growing fast. Please remember to mow and edge the path on the Keswick Road border of your plot and any internal paths also remove any perennial weeds before they seed. All paths; grass, flags or chippings must be no wider than 60cm (2 foot.)

Environmental Impact Audit

As you know the first area we are concentrating on is **Water Collection and Storage**.

- Your shed and greenhouse roof are a free water collection system.
- Every millimetre of rain that falls on one square metre of roof equals one litre of water.
- Our biggest bill at AAS is for mains water.
- The best rainwater storage is opaque to reduce algal growth and is covered for safety
- A large blue water butt (commonly seen on site) has 200 L capacity
- A chain can be used for water to run down from a gutter or a downpipe to storage
- Guttering is available at the Big Shed
- If you need advice the committee will be pleased to help
- Our byelaws state that “Water harvesting from all structures is mandatory”

- **SHEDS/GREENHOUSES/POLYTUNNELS** Only 1 shed and 1 greenhouse/polytunnel is permitted on each plot. Please refer to Appendix two which details the City Councils rules and a request form for plot holders. From April to September at least 75% of the greenhouse must be used for growing crops. It is not acceptable to use your greenhouse as additional storage space in the growing season. In order to reduce water usage water harvesting from all structures is mandatory.

Last year we used an amazing amount of mains water - 400 CUBIC METRES which is 400,000 litres! A bath holds an average of 150 litres – so that means we used and paid for 2667 bathtubs of mains water!



Minimising mains water wastage:

Watering cans should not be left unattended to overspill whilst filling.

You are allowed to fill a water butt by hose when you have run out of rainwater, **but** hoses must be well fitting to the tap and monitored to ensure there are no leaks on connections. Remember you must not use a hose to water your plot. If you use a leaky hose or use a hose to water your plot, you will receive a warning letter and may be banned from using a hose pipe at all. Please be conscientious and fair to all.

Please take care not to overtighten taps.

Make sure your water butt isn't leaking.

We have put together a **Water Survey Questionnaire** which we would like a person from every plot to complete.

These will be available for collection from the Big Shed during shop opening times on Sunday and Wednesday mornings.

Please remember to check our website for updates

www.allerton-allotments.com