



Allerton Allotments Society (AAS)

Newsletter (19) May/June 2026

Big Shed Opening Times

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

Site Inspections

The committee are obliged to carry out monthly inspections on behalf of Liverpool City Council (LCC.) If everyone was to keep on top of the basics it should be a quick process. It helps ensure that the whole site is productive and looking its best and that plot holders are using their plots fully. Allotment waiting lists are long and it is only fair that if you are lucky enough to have an allotment, you should use it and look after it. It's a snapshot on one day but we look for persistent issues before contacting individuals.

An inspection will occur 2 weeks after this newsletter is issued and individual notifications will follow where necessary - so please sort out your plot.

Each month similar things are seen, it would be good if you focus to resolve these issues before the inspection in two weeks' time

- Internal and Keswick Road paths should be cut to lawn length and edged with internal paths no wider than 600mm
- Weeds (unplanned self-seeding plants) to be removed before seed heads cause spread
- Remove spent crops. (It is acceptable to maintain a few heritage seed heads for saved seed)
- Ensure there are no path obstructions including fruit bushes and trees
- Cultivation levels should be 75% (50% for first year)
- Structures should be in good order with only 1 committee approved shed/ storage
- Rubbish must be removed in a timely manner
- Composters should only be used as composters and in good order with evidence of attention
- From April to September at least 75% of the greenhouse must be used for growing crops.

The LCC agreement, breach of contract process is displayed on the board on the Big Shed and along with AAS byelaws on our website for your information.

Association of Liverpool Allotments (ALA) best plots and best site competition 2026

We were delighted to win “Best 5 Plots” and “Best Allotment Site” in 2025 which was a great honour but also provides a money prize for our site and for the 3 individual best plots. The judging criteria has slightly altered this year, and you can see them on our website - www.allerton-allotments.com

Please use these criteria to improve your own plot. You can express your interest to be entered for best plot. The committee will select the best 5 plots on site for judging (6-10th July) but it would be great to be spoiled for choice. There are so many lovely and different style plots on site. We all benefit from enhancing our beautiful site. There is an additional competition this year where you can submit a photo of best blooms from any time this year on site. If you would like to enter, please forward your best plot

flower photos, taken in 2026, with good definition and your plot number to kewsickroadallotment@gmail.com. It is not clear yet whether we can enter more than 1 photo, but we can collate them for all either way.

Updates

You may have noticed we are in the middle of making a few improvements on site

- The gates have had a coat of Hammerite (thanks mainly to Paul D plot 38a.)
- The noticeboards were no longer waterproof or lockable, so they have been or are in process of being replaced with bright back boards. Hopefully they will serve us for some time.
- There is enough space in the boards nearest the gates for posters for any local events linked to gardening or supporting community interests. If you have relevant posters, please pass 2 copies to Louise (plot 12.) Kevin Parr (plot 39) will also upload anything allotment themed onto our webpage.
- A new nature board will replace the one that fell off the brick built shed nearer Keswick Road celebrating the wildlife on site and alerting you to any unwanted beasts. Jane Fallows (plot 59) has kindly agreed to continue looking after this. If you see anything of interest let her or one of the committee know, preferably with a photo.
- We have new plot numbers which we will be putting on the main path ends of each plot. You can still have your own personalised one as well if you so desire.
- Mick (plot 73) and Denis (plot 76b) have been working hard keeping the main grass paths trimmed and tidy. We have been given an extra petrol mower which has been added to those for hire so you can keep your own paths trimmed and neat.
- The main path and some of edge borders look lovely, thanks to all who have helped by adopting and caring for these areas. Take a walk around the site and if you feel inspired, why not adopt a section on the top path. We all benefit from more pollinators on site.



- The Mushroom Inoculation Workshop was very much enjoyed. Thanks for your patience as the supplier had a delay in sending spores. And thanks to Sam (plot 61) for organising it. We look forwards to seeing the results.

Your help is needed!

- We will be painting the Big Shed on 30th/ 31st May and 3rd/4th June (weather permitting.) If you can offer a few hours help, it would be much appreciated. It was previously painted with a now banned substance, but rest assured, we will be using a safe water-based paint. All materials will be supplied but you will need to wear your own protective clothing.

- We are looking to enhance the area by the toilets with a new French drain. If you have any natural pebbles and stones on your plot that you don't need, we would be grateful for your donations. We will need a few buckets full!
- Kevin Envis (plot 40) has made us a lovely planter that we will use by the big container on the way to the loos. In case you didn't know strong smelling herbs like Mint deter rats and mice.
- We have marked the end of the plots on the Main Path to better define plots. Please keep the ends of your plots weed free on this and all main paths.
- Water Survey: forms are available in the Big shed. Check you are collecting and storing as much rainwater as possible.

Dates for your diary

- **Sundays in May and June 10-12.** Seedling swaps will continue on Sundays until the end of June. Just take whatever you have too much of up to the Big Shed on any Sunday in June.
- **Sunday 7th June 11.00 Big Shed** - Ian (our beekeeper) will give a short talk to help us all understand some bee behaviour. Swarm season in the UK typically runs from late April to early July, peaking in May and June. Ian would like to reassure everyone that although swarms may look threatening the bees are not inherently aggressive and are more interested in nectar than humans. If you see or hear any unusual bee activity the best thing to do is contact Ian. The sooner he is alerted to an issue the sooner he can resolve it. You can contact him on 07973 553383. It is also displayed on the gate to the beekeeper's plot 61a.



- **Sunday 5th July - AAS Summer Social** (BBQ if weather permits) details to follow.
- **Tallest Sunflower Competition** - buy your seedlings for £1 from the Big Shed **judging 6th Sept.**
- **July/ August Scarecrow Competition** - you can go mad with your imagination this year, let us know if you are entering a scarecrow and vote for your favourite on 16th August.
- **16th August** We are celebrating National Allotment week with a site show. Any ideas most welcome. <https://thenas.org.uk/national-allotments-week>
- **Group trip to RHS Bridgewater** in Autumn. Date yet to be confirmed. Our group membership allows us to take a large group for free! Watch website and newsletters for updates
- **Winter fruit pruning course 20th November**

Jobs for late spring/ early summer

May and June often feel like the busiest months of the year, though the weather can still be unpredictable. As always, keep a close eye out for early pest damage, especially slugs and snails who will love young tender vegetables! Protect your crops from pigeons who love summer raspberries gooseberries, strawberries and young leaves. Don't forget that mice like peas and strawberries so make sure you protect right to ground level.

If you have a fruit cage or large netted area, please make sure it is fully bird proof. Birds get in through small gaps and often get trapped inside, eating all your crops and it is horrible seeing panicking birds in them.

As the temperatures rise the weeds will grow fast so keep the vegetable beds well hoed. Many seeds can now be sown direct in the soil and potatoes will need earthing up.

Lots more information can be found on the National Allotment Society website – thenas.org.uk/monthlyjobsmay <https://thenas.org.uk/June-Gardening-Checklist>

or at the RHS - www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/in-month/may-jobs
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/june>

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

www.allerton-allotments.com