

Allerton Allotments Society (AAS)

Newsletter (16) February 2026



Social Events

- Firstly, a big thank you to all those who came to our two Christmas events. They were both well attended and a special mention should go to Michael who played violin while we sang Christmas Carols around the wood burner!
- As for this year, Sam is already working on our social calendar for 2026. Elaine has requested some workshops during the year including fruit pruning, how to grow carrots, beautiful brassicas and how to make salves using Calendula. If you would like to volunteer to take part as, for example, a good carrot grower and share your wisdom – let us know. If you have any other ideas for social events, please let Sam know.

News

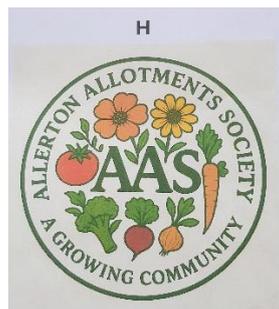


Please welcome the newest member of 2026 to **our growing community** – Madison Bushell of Plot 52b born on 12/1/26. Daughter to Sam and Helen and sister to proud brother, Hudson.

As I am sure most of you know by now – the big news is that we have been recognised by Liverpool City Council as an **Asset of Community Value** thanks to Jane's hard work! We are the first allotment site to achieve this in Liverpool. It will give us a valuable layer of protection as a site.

Updates

- Dave's niece has donated a number of council flags as she was having work done on her garden. These will be laid in the main recycling bay to prevent damage to the ground and make for easier cleaning and maintenance after a delivery of manure, woodchips or leaves. The landscaping company involved has also offered us other recycled materials in the future such as slabs, sleepers and lumber.
- Work has started on path maintenance. This includes some structural support, edging, some levelling and re-seeding.
- Flag competition – Thanks to everyone who submitted a design or an idea for a motto and for everyone who voted. The favourite motto was "A growing community" and the most popular flag design was Option H. You will soon see the flag flying when the shop is open in the Big Shed.



Big Shed Opening Times Sunday 10am – 12pm for the time being. They will be extended once the clocks change. Please see separate attachment for current price list.

February Jobs

Prepping your plot – before you get too busy growing, it's a good idea to repair or replace any structures like composters, fruit cages and sheds. It is a condition of your agreement that they should be in good condition and vermin proofed. If you have a roof on a shed or greenhouse, please make sure you are optimising rainwater collection with gutters, down pipes/chains and water butts and make sure your water butts and composters are covered.

Greenhouses and fruit cages are particularly vulnerable in snow and wind so make sure you check them regularly. A missing pane can lead to a lot more broken panes or a twisted frame if the wind gets in. Make sure all loose objects are weighed down so they don't lift in high winds and cause damage.

Couch grass is already growing so please address this on your plot to ensure problems do not worsen.

If we have noticed any major issues, we will email you to nudge you into action so please ensure we know your plans. Remember to keep your paths in good, safe condition with a clean edge. If you need help with a rope line to ensure your plot edge is straight and in the right place, please ask.

Prepping for planting - Chit potato tubers - It's important with earlies, and a good idea with maincrops, to 'chit' the seed potatoes before planting. This means allowing them to start sprouting shoots.

What to Sow in February

The days are getting longer, but don't get too enthused by a slightly warmer sunny day into starting things too early that will suffer when it gets cold again!

To sow now in seed trays or modules –

- Peas and Broad beans – harden off and plant out at around 10cms tall.
- Winter salads/ oriental greens/ early lettuce/ spinach
- Onions – start indoors then grow on in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse

To start in heat - not just a windowsill, they need 20C

- Peppers, aubergines and tomatoes – providing you have somewhere with good light and temperatures reliably above 10C to grow them on after they come out of the propagator.

Wait a little longer for

- Peppers, aubergines and tomatoes to grow on in unheated greenhouses or outdoors.
- Cucumbers, squashes and courgettes – they grow fast once germinated so be patient!
- Parsnips – will germinate better in warm soil
- Outdoor direct sowings – the soil is cold and the slugs are hungry.

Great tips, sowing calendar and germination temperature guide <https://realseeds.co.uk/germination.html>

What Makes Good Seed Compost

A good seed compost is light, fine in texture, low in nutrients and helps root growth.

The Key Characteristics of Good Seed Compost are –

Low Nutrient Content – Unlike multipurpose compost, seed compost is low in nutrients. This is important because seeds contain all the energy they need to sprout.

Good Moisture Retention – It should retain moisture but allow excess water to drain away. It is important to maintain consistent moisture where possible.

Sterility – when making your own try to ensure that all materials used are properly decomposed.

For advice on making your own have a look at the RHS website www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/how-to-make-your-own-potting-mix

HAPPY SOWING!

