



## Allerton Allotments Society (AAS) Newsletter (15) December 2025

### Social Events

We have two events coming up –

1. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – In addition to mince pies and mulled wine there will be pickles, preserves and plants in the Big Shed from 11 – 1pm  
Bring your own home made and try someone else's! It will also be the last chance to buy one of our lovely calendars as a last-minute Christmas present!
2. Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas drinks at the Greenhills from 5pm onwards.

Why not pop along to one or both of these, meet up with old friends and make some new ones and help celebrate a lovely, successful growing year on the site.

### News

Members of the Committee attended the AGM of the Association of Liverpool Allotments (ALA) on 27<sup>th</sup> November and Fiona accepted, on our behalf, the award for best site in the city. The five top plots were also awarded to Paul, Kevin McC., Dave and Steve although unfortunately Jan couldn't be there to accept hers.

A HUGE thank you to all our plot holders for the work you have put in over the year which enabled us to win these awards!



The wreath making event on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November was an enjoyable and chilled afternoon. The wreaths made were lovely and the event helped raise funds for AAS. A big thank you to Jan for letting us use the Guide Hut in Ambergate Road. We were able to have light, heat and warm mulled wine!



## **Big Shed Opening Times**

**Kings Seeds orders are now in the Big Shed for collection as soon as possible.**

From 1<sup>st</sup> November it's off-season opening times so that's just Sunday 10 – 12.

Please note that the shop will not be open on Sunday 28th December.

The beautiful AAS calendars by Marianne and Elaine are for sale at £5 each and would make lovely Christmas presents. All funds to AAS.

Denis, as Trading Secretary, (with Kevin P's help) has responsibility for stocking the Big Shed – please let them know if there are any items that you would like to see being included there.

## **Paying for 2026 AAS Subs and LCC Rents**

Both LCC rent and AAS subscriptions are due on **1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026**

AAS Subscriptions for 2026 are £28

LCC rent for 2026 remains at £60 for a full plot, £30 for a half plot, £15 for a ¼ plot, £7.50 for an 1/8 plot with a 50% discount for those over 60.

You can pay by cash, cheque or card. If you want to pay in cash, we ask you to pay in notes or a maximum of 10 coins.

### **Dates for the payment of rents –**

1. Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup> – 9.30 – 12.30
2. Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> – 9.30 – 12.30
3. Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> – 9.30 – 12.30

**Please note that the shop will not be open for purchases on these three rent collection days.**

If you know you'll not be available on these dates, please can you let Paul or Fiona know so you can arrange to pay before Christmas.

If you do not wish to keep your plot, please tell Fiona asap. If you do not pay your fees by 9<sup>th</sup> of February Liverpool City Council assumes you are abandoning your plot, and it will be rented to someone else (as per your rental agreement.)

## **Updates**

- The rules for fires on site have been updated by LCC. These updates will be posted on the noticeboards.
- Sadly, we have only had a small number of ideas submitted for our new flag design. We are looking for ideas for a flag which could include AAS, a picture-based logo and a motto. You could have a go at designing just one element or a complete flag. Karen (on plot 10b) has kindly offered to make the flag and will incorporate, if necessary, ideas from various people. So, get creative!

## **Winter Jobs**

### **Shed Maintenance**

All structures need to be maintained (as stated in your contract ) so it's a good idea to check the condition of your shed, fruit cages and greenhouses before the worst of the winter weather arrives.

### **Pruning**

From November to March is the perfect time to tackle winter fruit pruning. Prune apples and pears to remove dead or crossing branches. The RHS has a good guide - [Apples and pears: pruning made easy | RHS Advice](#) Avoid pruning stone fruits like damsons and plums to reduce the risk of silver leaf disease. Soft fruit pruning varies from type to type – Blackcurrants for example should have a third of the older wood pruned from the base to keep them cropping well. Autumn fruiting raspberries need to be completely cut back to ground level.

### **Storm preparations**

Please check you have not left anything out that could blow around and cause damage during winter storms. Water barrels are prone to cracking in hard frost. Keep an eye on the weather for prolonged sub-zero temperatures. The large amounts of manure and woodchips that have been applied in recent months to both enrich and mulch the site seem to be already helping to alleviate the flooding issues on site.

**Path maintenance**

Now is a good time to think about how to fix uneven areas, improve drainage and clear paths of leaves if they are becoming slippery.

**Planning Ahead**

December may feel quiet on the allotment but it's a good time to think about preparation and draw up a planting plan for next season. Consider what went well this year - and what didn't - and think about rotating your crops.

It only remains to wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a great growing 2026!

