

Allerton Allotment Society (AAS) Newsletter (14) November 2025

Upcoming events: All welcome!

- ✔ Sunday 16th November 12-2pm site soup social. NB bonfire cancelled as too wet
- ✔ Saturday 29th November 2-4pm Christmas wreath workshop at Ambergate Guide hut.
Tickets are now available in advance on a first come first served basis @£25 per person, including light refreshments, all materials and tools. Louise and Fiona will help you design and make a beautiful Christmas wreath using natural materials and we will have some fun. All profits to AAS.
- ✔ Sunday 21st December from 12 noon Christmas social in the Big Shed with mince pies and drinks
- ✔ Festive drinks at the Greenhills date and details to follow
- ✔ AAS flag logo and motto ideas invited.
 - Please submit your ideas for a motto which encompasses AAS ethos/ values in a maximum of 4 words.
 - We would also like to adopt a design which we could use as a logo and a flag. The design should be simple, bold and colourful and suitable to be sized up to flag size (max 150cm x 90cm) made from a lightweight fabric or sized down to logo size. It should feature a maximum of 4 elements that symbolise the beauty and tranquillity of our site. It could include a logo or be just pictorial or a combination of both. All ideas should be submitted by email by 30.12.25 so we can provide a shortlist for 2026.
- ✔ Any suggestions for future events/ competitions/newsletter content? What do you like for 2026, what could we do better?
- ✔ In response to requests to promote events in the local community, not directly related to AAS, we will soon have a notice board where you can add a paper poster (via the committee.)

The new committee members will be deputising for officer roles to add resilience to the day to day running of AAS and will be taking over some of the responsibilities as follows:

- Louise to take over AAS monthly newsletter
- Kevin and Sam to take over permissions process for structures and trees
- Sam to take over monitoring of WhatsApp group

Big Shed opening (this is the AAS shop and equipment store, a place to meet and ask for advice)

- ✔ From 1st November off season opening of Sunday 10-12 only until March 2026. The stove will be on to warm you up with a cuppa in hand. All are welcome.
- ✔ The beautiful AAS calendars are for sale at £5 each with all funds to AAS thanks to Marianne and Elaine for all their hard work.
- ✔ Horse manure deliveries have been really popular but will now be halted until Spring so we can have leaf and wood chip supplies in the bay.
- ✔ In view of rising water costs and environmental considerations the priority for AAS in 2026 is to ensure rainwater is collected from all sheds and greenhouses. With this in mind water butts will be promoted for a minimum donation of £5 with a priority for those with a structure without a water butt. Anyone with a source of barrels to repurpose as water butts please let us know.

Paying for 2026 AAS subs and LCC rents

- ✔ LCC rent and AAS membership fees @ £28 are due 1st Jan 2026
LCC rent for 2026 remains at £60 for a full plot and £30 for a half plot, £15 for a ¼ plot, £7.50 for an 1/8 plot with 50% discount for those over 60.
You can pay by cash, cheque or card (sorry we cannot accept bank transfers.) If you want to pay in cash, we ask you to pay in notes if possible or a maximum of 10 coins. We reserve the right to refuse payment in small value coins.
- ✔ LCC require us to create an accurate register and for this reason you must pay your rents and subs in person and sign to confirm your contact details are correct. Dates for rent will be in the next newsletter but are usually the first 3 Sundays in January. If you know you won't be here in January please let Paul or Fiona know so we can agree a plan for you to pay pre-Christmas.
- ✔ If you do not want to keep your plot for 2026 please tell Fiona (AAS field secretary asap.) Please note that if you do not pay your fees by 9th February (40 days from rent due date) LCC assumes you are abandoning your plot and it will be rented to someone else (as per your rental agreement.)

Did you know?

- ✔ Well controlled fires are permitted from 1st November to 15th March but must not cause annoyance to local householders and other tenants. Fires must not be left unattended. Fires are not permitted on plots 3,4, and 5. A member of the committee can at any time ask a tenant to extinguish their bonfire. If you plan to use wood ash as a fertiliser do not burn treated wood.
- ✔ The water is now switched off on site except to the tap behind the big shed to prevent any bursts over the winter months. If you are planning to have a fire its worth preparing with adequate water to hand.

Things to do.

There are always jobs to be done on your plot and preparation outside the main growing season will help you spring into action in 2026.

Remove your own rubble/ bricks/ broken glass or paving and think before bringing potentially waste items onto site. It's ideal to do this over winter when there is less to do.

Maintain/ repair your plot paths and edges and renew dilapidated composters. Keep paths level, stone free and wide enough to walk safely between plots with no overhanging plants. You are responsible for the path on the Keswick Road border of your plot and all internal edges. If you need a guideline to show your boundary, or advice please let the committee know.

Plan for 2026. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/beginners-guide/vegetable-basics>

There is a planting calendar inside the Kings seed catalogue but don't forget to check individual seed variety pack instructions.

Got spare seeds left over? Feel free to add them to our seed library in the Big Shed for all AAS members. We will continue to support "plants for all scheme" at Liverpool libraries.

Bare root season is upon us. This is the best time to plant fruit trees and bushes to allow the roots to establish before the real cold sets in. there are no restrictions on fruit bushes but if you would like to plant a fruit tree, please remember you need to submit a plan for formal approval to the committee. It should be on dwarf

root stock i.e. M26 or smaller for apples, Quince C for pears and quince, pixy for plums, damsons and gages and Gisela 5 for cherries. The tree must be sited 1.5M from the edge of your plot and kept to less than 2.1M (7 ft). Cordons and step over trees take up less space and don't shade your plot excessively, allowing you to have more trees without impacting your valued crops.

Water management. One of our goals for 2026 is to ensure we are harvesting and using rainwater as much as possible. This is best for your plants, the environment and our community as it reduces the water bills for the site (paid from your subs.) Make sure that all your structure's have an effective system to collect run off water and keep it covered to reduce evaporation and keep pests out. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-jobs/water-collecting-storing-and-using>

Soil needs feeding so it's worth considering adding well-rotted manure , mulching and planning how you can make the most of your plant waste and weeds. Modern thinking is that bare soil leads to loss of nutrients and erosion. Looking after your soil will pay you back with higher yields.

Mulching retains moisture. After last year's dry spells, we can all understand the importance of retaining what moisture we have. Different mulches work better for different plants but planning this is always a good idea. You can be making leaf mould from fallen leaves, grow comfrey for use as a mulch and fertiliser, plan to use green manure or companion planting. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/mulch>

Winter is a magical time on the site and can be really beautiful, peaceful and calming: don't be a stranger!

Web links you might be interested in.

[Allotments: how get the best from your plot / RHS Gardening](#)

[Composting - Liverpool City Council](#)

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/prevention-protection/preventing-winter-damage>

Our community relies on your ideas, feedback, and input: please visit the big shed, email us on keswickroadallotment@gmail.com or WhatsApp message us individually if more appropriate.

