

Rotherham Allotments Alliance Ltd

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Dear Tenant,

We hope that this growing season has been productive so far. We want to keep you updated on what's been happening at the RAA. Please see below for news and information.

Rectory Fields – Community Payback Clearance Works

This site has been neglected for a number of years with many plots left uncultivated and overgrown. We instructed the Community Payback service to clear these areas removing the waste. Approximately 12 plots have now been cleared, half of which have now been tenanted. The remaining few will be ready for tenants soon once the waste has been removed. As you can appreciate, the removal of waste is the most expensive element of works like this, and, due to the volume, the grab wagon and 2 skips already provided still haven't cleared it. Lots of fly-tipped items not relating to allotment gardening has made this task much more difficult. That is why we ask that tenants don't dump or tip on sites, to help keep a clean and safe environment for tenants. Work has also taken place at Greasbrough site under this scheme.



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Gate Signs & Numbers



Tenants on direct – managed sites may have noticed the new gate signs that have been put up recently. We have invested in signs that are more robust and will last much longer than the previous paper signs. We also have some new plot number plaques to put on direct-managed sites. These will be done soon.

AGM

We were pleased to see those members who attended the first in-person AGM on 29th March. The meeting itself became very digressed as issues were brought up that weren't AGM-related. With this in mind, the Board of Directors would like to remind tenants that they need to contact the RAA directly to report any issues they may have. Please remember that all tenants are shareholders of the organization so have a say in decisions being made at an AGM.

Upcoming Events

2nd July 22

**Greasbrough Rec
Celebration Day**

8th – 14th August 22

National Allotments Week

3rd & 4th September 22

**Rotherham Show at Clifton
Park**

Tenant Reminders:

Fires:

Whilst fires are permitted on most sites, please remember that burning is a last resort and should be done considerably, so not to cause nuisance to surrounding areas. Tenants can be fined if found causing a nuisance.



Cockerels:

Under the Allotments Act 1950, cockerels are not permitted on allotments due to the noise nuisance they create. Cockerels need to be removed as soon as possible. Now that the Avian Influenza restrictions have lifted, this should be easier to do.



Socialising:

Whilst we want the allotments to be a happy, sociable community, we expect tenants not to use plots for socializing purposes, i.e. evening drinking parties. Allotments are for cultivating only and should only be occupied during daylight hours, unless feeding livestock or in the event of an emergency.

All of these issues are covered by your Tenancy Agreement and the Allotment Rules. Tenants found not adhering to these will be removed from the site.

Society and Tenant / Shareholder Forums

As discussed in the AGM, we will be holding society and tenant / shareholder forums to discuss with attendees any queries or information they need regarding their site or the Alliance. These will be in person but may also be attended online by Zoom. Dates and more details to follow.



NAS Membership

All shareholders were given an opportunity to join the NAS membership scheme, funded by the RAA, when rent letters were sent out in December 2021. If you did not return your consent form, but would still like to be a member, please contact our Allotment Support Assistant.

Benefits of being in the scheme include a discounted seed scheme and plot-holder insurance. If you are a society site and not already a member, please consider joining. The RAA will fund the membership by way of reimbursing the society. For more details, please see <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/join-us/membership-benefits/>

Improvement Works

We are still waiting for dates from contractors for planned works to be carried out on sites. If you have a small project to do on a society-managed site, the Alliance has a small budget to be able to match-fund these – please contact our Allotment Support Assistant for more details. We can also look at helping to source external funding for projects such as making plots accessible. Clifton Site recently applied for funding which allowed them to create a plot for Caremark who support people with complex health conditions to enable them to live a full and active ordinary life in their own community and home. This included raised beds and suitable accessible ground coverings.



Pest Control

Those sites that were included in the pest control provision will now be aware that the service is being done in-house and not by RMBC. The decision for this was to make it more cost-effective and to be able to offer provision to more sites. We gave society sites an opportunity for a representative to train to become qualified to distribute the pest control on their site. This may also be rolled out on direct-managed sites in the future. The Alliance has provided sites with bait boxes, snap traps and poison. If your site is currently experiencing a prolific pest control problem, please contact the Alliance to discuss the option of getting someone trained up.



Director Vacancies

Would you like to be more involved in how the allotments are run? We currently have a vacancy for a director to join the board. This is on a voluntary basis and members are required to attend meetings and assist the Allotment Support Assistant with site visits where required. Please contact the Allotment Support Assistant for more information.

