



Horfield & District Allotments Association

Winter 2025 Newsletter

Here is a summary of activities that have happened on the allotment over the recent months.
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1. Governance & Committee Updates

H&DAA structure and Management Committee

H&DAA is a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee with a Board and a Management Committee. It is run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of its members. A description of how this works and who does what is given in this document - [Plain Guide to H&DAA](#).

Management Committee Chair and Vice Chair

In the last year we have elected Tony Jones as the Chair of the Management Committee which manages all the operational functions for H&DAA. Tony has been on the Committee for 8 years and is a Field Rep at Birchall Road allotments. The [Terms of Reference](#) for the role of Chair can be viewed via [this link](#).

The elected Vice Chair is Sian Hampson who is a Field Rep at Grahams Telecomms. Sian has been on the Committee for a year. Her role is to support the Chair and to have specific responsibilities for certain management functions.

Recent Committee changes

In the last year there have been a number of changes to the H&DAA Management Committee as people have left and been replaced. The full list of committee members is given in the table below. The most recent additions are:

- Ed Mew - St Agnes Field Rep
- Lesley Salmon – St Agnes Field Rep
- Tim Hobbs – St Agnes Field Rep
- Shannon Smith – Davies Field Rep
- Helen Appleton – Longs Field Rep
- Jan Davies – Birchall Road Field Rep
- Jeremy Cook – Grahams (Highbury)
- Alice Nidd – Grahams (Telecomms)

The following members left the committee during 2025 and we thank them for their immense contributions to H&DAA over many years

- Pete Clee –had many roles including Vice Chair and Site Rep for Golden Hill
- Steve Soffe – Plot Manager and Davies Field Rep
- Neil Pirie – Chair of H&DAA and St Agnes Field Rep

Each of the leaving members has been given gardening vouchers as a mark of appreciation for the voluntary work they have done for H&DAA.



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Articles of Association

As H&DAA is registered as a Company with Companies House, we must have a formal set of constitutional documents called Articles of Association which describe what we are and how we operate. This is governed by law under the Companies Act 2006. Our current Articles and Memorandum of Association were written in February 2003 when we were set up a Company, with the intent to obtain charitable status. We do not believe these are currently fit for purpose, so we have been revising our [Articles](#) to reflect show our current legal obligations. We also needed to change our [Articles](#) to reflect the fact that we are not a Charity, as is stated in our existing Articles, and we do not have Trustees, but Directors.

We have based our [new Articles](#) on the Model Articles which are defined to meet the Companies Act 2006. This is the most common way of producing constitutional documents for a company. Our updated Articles will also be more explicit on members' rights, notices and processes for meetings, ways to communicate with members, the appointments of Directors and accountabilities.

Members will be invited to vote on the [new Articles](#) at our 2026 AGM. This will be a Special Resolution which will require at least 75% of those members present (or voting via proxy) to be in favour for the Articles to be adopted.

For those members who are interested in finding out how more about H&DAA is run, we recommend you read the document [Plain Guide to H&DAA](#). This describes more fully how we operate: the Articles of Association are the framework for our legal responsibilities and are not meant to describe day-to-day operational processes or procedures.

2. Site Management & Member Responsibilities

Waste on plots

Allotment waste can be broadly categorised as either organic (soft or woody prunings) or Inorganic (metal, plastic, old timbers, etc). Members should try to minimise the accumulation of waste. The less brought onto a plot, and the less generated on a plot, the less material to become waste.

The main responsibility for disposing of waste lies with the individual member, not H&DAA. Most plant material waste can be composted or shredded to make mulch. Although burning is still permitted within certain dates, it is discouraged. Other materials should be disposed of off-site, either through household waste or recycling collections.

The main exception to this is where a previous tenant has left waste on a plot. H&DAA will try to clear waste before the plot is let to a new tenant. Volunteer work parties may be called to help with this. We may then use contractors to remove any accumulated rubbish. H&DAA will inform members when a waste collection day is planned. This is the only time that members should add waste to a pile – **please do not dump rubbish on a vacant plot unless you are invited to do so!**



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Plot signs

Every plot should have a sign indicating its plot number. Tenants should ensure that they have put up a sign somewhere on their plot. On the website we recently gave some ideas of how you can make your own sign or where you can go to have a custom plot marker made for you.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/plot-marker-signs/>

Water supply on our sites

H&DAA have to pay for water that is supplied to our sites and available via water troughs or taps on our fields. Two of our sites have recently been inspected by Bristol Water to ensure that we adhere to modern water regulations. As a result of these inspections we are making some changes to the water supply on our sites:

- Taps must not have hoses attached to them as this can result in contamination. Members must ensure that no hoses are attached to taps in future.
- Missing lids on the water trough stopcock compartments need replacing. This will be rectified.
- Backflow protection devices need to be fitted on our side of the water meter to prevent potential contamination of the water supply. H&DAA are arranging for contractors to undertake this work.

Please contact your Field Rep in future if you see such issues with water taps or troughs.

Trees on our sites

There are many trees on our allotment sites. These are broadly in two categories:

- Fruit trees on plots. Tenants should keep fruit trees well pruned. If members feel they can no longer maintain a tree they should contact the Field Rep who may be able to advise further action
- Trees on the site/field boundaries or in hedges. These are maintained either by the hedging work party that works over the winter months or by tree surgeons that we contract to prune or remove overgrown trees that are taking too much light or nutrients away from neighbouring plots

Where there are disputes about whether trees should be removed, we aim to consult with our neighbours, both within the site/field and outside, to ensure everyone is on board with the decisions being made. If necessary, we will also coordinate with the Council's Tree Officer who has some input into decisions as the Council are owners of the land.

Safety procedures for electrical equipment on loan

H&DAA has strimmers and lawnmowers available on most of our sites which can be lent to members for use on their plot. Anyone wishing to use this equipment should contact their Field Rep (FR) for details or speak to the following equipment monitors:

Birchall Road allotments - Joe Baxter (FR)

Longs field – Dominic O'Dwyer (FR)

Golden Hill allotments – Pete Clee (07913953327)

Grahams - Sian Hampson (FR)

When using loan equipment you should follow the guidelines given to you by the equipment monitor for the site. Safety guidelines to be followed are also set out on our website:

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/policies/equipment-safety-guidelines/>



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Security update for Golden Hill

Following several break-ins to people's sheds by a rough sleeper on our Golden Hill site, we instigated a review of security on the site. This involved five areas: Gate Padlocks, Fencing, Shed locks, Patrols, Vigilance.

1. Gate padlocks: we have changed the padlock code on all the site gates. We are also aware that some of the gates have been left unlocked, either through negligence or due to padlock issues. Some of this is down to groups that use our site - we have now advised all groups that use the Monk Road gate to use the gate next to the Community Garden which is more easily monitored.
We have also improved our maintenance of the locks which can become jammed with frequent use and hard to close. If you see a problem with any padlock please contact your Field Rep.
2. Fencing: after a site inspection, there were some vulnerabilities that were spotted in the perimeter fences which could have given an intruder access to the site. Most of these have now been corrected with a plan to complete the new fencing in the near future.
3. Members are encouraged to put a lock on to their sheds wherever this is possible. This should help to deter intruder entry to their shed.
4. The H&DAA Committee have discussed the possibility of having a security firm making patrols around the Golden Hill site during certain hours and have received quotes for this. However, we appreciate that some members feel very uncomfortable about this approach. We do not currently have any plans to implement a security patrol on the site.
5. All members are urged to be vigilant by reporting any suspicious behaviour which they may see around the site. We understand that some people may feel wary about approaching anyone they do not recognise, so we ask you to let your Field Rep know if you have concerns about anything.

At the present time, we have not had any recent reports of the rough sleeper reappearing on Golden Hill.

Insurance cover

H&DAA recently did a review of our annual insurance cover. We have expanded the cover so that electrical equipment loaned to members is now covered; also volunteers in work parties organised by H&DAA have cover. Members are reminded that individual sheds on plots are **not** covered by H&DAA insurance. If required, you should take out specific cover for your shed and its contents or check whether your house insurance may cover it. A summary of the H&DAA cover is:

- Public Liability – this covers costs related to injuries or damage to property under H&DAA responsibility. This does not cover injury or damage caused by members
- Buildings cover – certain communal sheds and other buildings are covered for damage.
- Volunteer cover – covers for injuries incurred while on a H&DAA-organised work party
- Equipment cover – cover for damage to H&DAA-owned electrical equipment
- Equipment loan – cover for injuries incurred while using H&DAA equipment



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3. News from around our sites

HOCO Wassail news

Horfield Organic Community Orchard is having their Wassail on Saturday 17 January 2026. Details to be confirmed. See [HOCO Website](#)

Graham's Telecoms Field plans for a communal shared space

Sian and Alice, the Grahams Telecomms Field Reps, have some ambitious plans to develop a communal space where tenants and Associates can meet other plotholders to chat, relax and share ideas. This is near the middle of the site, halfway down off the main path. There is already a communal shed with some tools in it. In the plans, which have been jointly put together with members, there will be a bench, seats, raised beds, a pond and flowerbeds to enjoy.

Anyone wishing to help should contact Sian or Alice.

Graham's Telecoms new hedge plantings

We recently received 90 tree whips from the Woodland Trust to plant in the boundary hedge on the upper part of the site. These are all native trees, such as hazel, dogwood, hawthorn and dog rose. A work party is scheduled to plant these trees and it should make a lovely sight in future years as well as marking a definitive boundary for the site.

Golden Hill Community Garden new kitchen/shelter

The Community Garden on our Golden Hill site has now been completed with new plastic curtain walls adding to the existing wooden construction and a kitchen with cooker, tables and chairs.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/kitchen-shelter-for-the-community-garden/>

Birchall Road site summer photos

Kirstin, one of Birchall Road Field Reps took these beautiful photos during 2025.

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/birchall-road-site-photos/>

Plot transformation

These before and after photos from a Birchall plotholder show what can be done in time if you work hard enough!

<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/news/how-to-transform-your-plot/>



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4. Dates for your diary

Rent requests

In early January the annual plot rent and subscriptions will be due. We will send out emails to all members requesting that they pay, ideally by bank transfer, if they wish to retain their plot for the coming year. If you want to relinquish your plot, you should contact the Plot Manager either when you receive the email, or beforehand if you know you cannot continue into 2026.

Annual General Meeting 2026

The H&DAA AGM for 2026 will be held on Wednesday 29th April 2026 starting at 7.30pm. The venue will be Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wellington Hill, Horfield, which is a change from previous years.

Further details will be sent out nearer the time, but please put this date in your diaries. All members are encouraged to come to the meeting.

5. Ways to contact us

We send out Newsletters once or twice a year, and mailshots are sent out when there is specific information to broadcast to members. There are lots of ways to keep in touch with other members and with the H&DAA committee members:

1. All the Field Reps and other H&DAA team members can be contacted by email using the **generic email addresses** such as BirchallRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk - these are all given in the following link:
<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/policies/field-representatives/>
2. A table of each of the [Field Reps' plot numbers and phone numbers](#) is given at the foot of this newsletter
3. The **H&DAA Facebook group** is dedicated to the H&DAA membership. Here you will find interesting snippets of information posted by other members across our three allotment sites. To request to join this group go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/handdaa/>
4. To follow the **H&DAA Instagram** site, search for horfield_daa from your Instagram account
5. Some of the sites/fields have a **WhatsApp group** for communications . Contact your Field Rep if you want to join the group.
6. The **H&DAA website** is the place to go for the latest news from H&DAA and for general information about the allotments. Certain information is kept in the Members Area and you will need to enter a password:
<https://www.horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk/members-area/>

The password for the Members Area of the H&DAA website is PLOT2028



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H&DAA Committee Contact details

Baptist Field Reps BaptistRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk			Longs Field Reps LongsRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk		
Plot	Name	Phone number	Plot	Name	Phone number
19	Joe McSorley	0117 942 3449	23a, 31a	Steve Morgan	07340 730163
33a, 34	Pete Bill	07980 810 511	10a/10	Dominic O'Dwyer	07925 595 339
17	Nick Northcott	07899 996261	8a	Helen Appleton	07808 760370
Birchall Field Reps – BirchallRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk			St Agnes Field Reps StagnesRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk		
Plot	Name	Phone number	Plot	Name	Phone number
30	Joe Baxter	07913 644 467	70	Ed Mew	07437 357586
8a	Kirstin Whimster	01179441175	8a	Lesley Salmon	0117942 6436
9a	Tony Jones	0117962 0462	8a	Tim Hobbs	0117942 6436
23	Jan Davies	07813 832084			
Grahams Field Reps GrahamsRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk			Davies Field Reps DaviesRep@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk		
Plot	Name	Phone number	Plot	Name	Phone number
Telecoms 5a	Sian Hampson	07815 725653	25c	Shannon Smith	0117 373 1587
Telecoms 4a	Alice Nidd		2	Sarah News	07906 820 787
Highbury 29a	Jamie Darke	07816 772096			
Highbury	Jeremy Cook	07879 884884			
Other H&DAA roles					
Name		Phone Number	Name		Phone Number
Tony Jones – Chair of Management Committee Chair@.....		0117962 0462	Phil Hopkins – Treasurer treasurer@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk		01179240140
Cathy Rice - Co-Secretaries David Evans Secretary@.....		07837 851 475	Pete Bill- Plot manager pltmgr@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk		07980 810 511
			Phil Hopkins – Website Manager info@@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk		01179240140



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That's all for now. If you have any comments, questions or ideas for future Newsletters, please send them to info@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk

The H&DAA Team