Dunchurch Allotments



By Paul Sanders, Secretary

Dunchurch Allotment Association exists to support the allotment community and was formed in 2011. Since its inception, the role of the Association has developed and expanded, but its core mission remains to support members in their passion for gardening. This includes providing gardening supplies and services, as well as maintaining and improving the site. In recent years, the Association has also engaged with the local community by organizing fun and engaging activities for families, such as the scarecrow festivals, acorn houses and Wildlife Wander events.

The allotment site is owned by the Dunchurch and Thurlaston Community Trust, to which plot holders sign a lease and pay their annual rent. Increasingly, the Association has taken on the responsibility of managing the site with the support of the Trust. This includes tasks such as maintaining boundary hedges, improving pathways, and clearing rubbish from untended plots. The issue of untended plots presents the biggest challenge to the Association.





Take a walk on the wild side – two of the overgrown plots

When tenants take on a plot, they sign a tenancy agreement, one condition of which states that plots must be 'kept clean, in a good state of fertility and cultivation, and free from noxious weeds.' However, some plots inevitably become neglected and overgrown, for reasons such as ill health, family breakup, work pressures, personal circumstances, or loss of interest. The challenge for both the Trust and the Association is determining when action should be taken to request that a tenant relinquish their plot. Some allotment sites are strict in their inspection and enforcement procedures; for instance, one local site requires that 80% of a plot be under cultivation.

At Dunchurch Allotments, inspections are carried out jointly by the Trust and the Association, with both parties agreeing on the actions that should be taken regarding unkept and uncultivated plots. The specific circumstances of plot holders are always considered. Initially, contact is made to suggest that the plot needs attention, and in some cases, tenants are encouraged to downsize to a smaller plot. The tone of the communication becomes progressively more direct, and if no action is taken by the plot holder, termination of the tenancy is enacted.

Both the Trust and the Association aim to take a sympathetic and lenient approach to inspections, balancing this with the obligations that plot holders agree to.

IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

ILLUSTRATED CALENDAR FOR 2025



Dunchurch Allotment Association's gardening calendar is back for 2025!

On sale for just £7 at the Library, Cuppa, the Post Office, Wanda's, Anne-Marie's Florist, Mops, Patrick Ryan, The Kitchens Inc, Rugby Road Newsagents and Truly Scrumptious

Or buy your copy at Winter Wonderland on 8 December

You can also order a copy by emailing dunchurchallotments.org.uk



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