



# New Ash Green Allotments

## **About the allotments**

New Ash Green Horticultural Association (NAGHA) is a non profit, self managed community organisation comprising of 120 allotments of various sizes that are rented to the community (approx 160 adults/ children and brings people of all ages and diversity, together with a single purpose- to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers for their families.

The Allotments were started in 1975 as the village was being developed. Some plots have passed from one generation to another to become part of their family history.

Families, groups and individuals make up our allotment community with ages 1-80+ years, all learning from each other, supporting each other with knowledge and cooperation making it such a happy and friendly place to be.

For many it is their first foray into growing things, for some its their only socialisation, for others it's a place where children can learn how their food grows, many people have a patch of their allotment for their children or grandchildren's growing.

The Allotments provide a place of escape that promotes mental wellbeing as well as keeping people physically active.

The Allotments are an integral part of our community, where people of all ages and capabilities can come together and promote both healthy living and healthy eating.

There is also a 'share' table where excess plants and produce can be shared amongst other plot holders or sent to the Community Cupboard, our local food bank.

## **New Members - Getting started on your new allotment...**

First steps...

*Congratulations on taking on an allotment plot. We hope you enjoy getting to work on your plot and find this information useful.*

So you have just taken over an allotment.

10 Good reasons to have an allotment:

1 Organic- you know exactly what you are eating. You can reduce you and your family's exposure to pesticides, herbicides and fungicides - what you would like to grow?

2 Value for money- growing your own vegetables and fruit can save you lots of money, especially if you want to eat organically. And renting a plot costs less than you think.

*Be aware An allotment does not provide instant free food. However the longer you work your plot the cheaper it becomes. Never try and dig an allotment in one go. Dig and plant as you go, and as the seeds or plants begin to grow, hoe regularly to keep the weeds in check.*

3 Exercise- getting outside, enjoying the fresh air and increasing the amount of exercise you do.

*As one very experienced allotment holder told us... "you need plenty of patience and perseverance and never give up when the results are not what you expected!"*

4 Community spirit- allotment gardening can provide an opportunity to meet other people.

5 Family activity- people of all ages can enjoy working on an allotment. It can be a fun activity for all the family.

6 Sense of achievement- it can be very rewarding to see and taste the fruits of your labour.

7 Freshest food possible- you can pick and eat your crops within hours.

8 Good for the environment- allotments encourage environmentally friendly practices such as composting and reduce the need for packaging.

9 Good for local wildlife- allotments can provide valuable habitats for wildlife and offer green open space in otherwise urban areas.

10 Stress relief- gardening can be very therapeutic and can reduce stress.



## Rules & Guidance when taking on your allotment

### The Allotment Association - Section 1 -

- 1.1 The Association shall form a devolved management and appoint 3 Officers and up to 6 Trustees.
- 1.2 The management of the Association's business, the conduct of its policy and the direction of its various undertakings, shall be vested in a committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and as many other members as the Association elect. Any vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled at the discretion of the committee, providing the applicant is out of their first year probation period.
- 1.3 The membership of the Association shall be £20 which is a single one off, non refundable fee paid at the start of any first tenancy. The level of the annual subscription, due on or before 31st November each year, shall be determined by a resolution carried by a majority of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.
- 1.4 The Association's financial year shall end on 30th September annually and the Annual General Meeting shall be held before 31st November after notice of at least 21 days has been given, for the purpose of receiving and passing the accounts and reports of the previous financial year and any other business proper to the Association's affairs.
- 1.5 A Special General Meeting may be called at any time on a written request to the Honorary Secretary, signed by not less than 15 members and stating the reason for their desire. All members must then be advised and the meeting held within 21 days from the receipt of

## Tenants responsibility Section 2-

Tenants of a plot shall comply with the following conditions;

2.1 The tenant shall keep the plot clear and in a good state of cultivation and free of overgrown weeds. The plot holder is also responsible for maintaining half the width of the surrounding path, keeping it cut, edged, flat, weed free and to the correct width by not extending their plot into the pathway. However, the association may from time to time arrange for communal grass cutting.

\*National guidelines suggest 25% of the plot be cultivated in first 3 months, 50% within 6 months and 100% cultivated by the end of the first year. The allotment act requires a minimum of 80% of each plot is to be wholly cultivated.

2.2 Should the tenant receive a written request from the committee, after one of their periodical inspections, asking them to put their plot or path into a better state of order and should this request be ignored or not satisfied after a period of 30 days, the tenant will be served formal 7 day notice to quit and shall forfeit the plot without refund of fee's.

2.3 The tenant shall not cause any nuisance, bullying or annoyance to the occupiers of any other plots, or obstruct any path set out by the Association for the use of the occupiers of the plots.

2.4 The tenant shall not sublet, assign or part with the possession of any part of the plot without the written consent of the Association.

2.5 The tenant shall not, without consent of the Association cut or prune any communal timber trees or hedges.

2.6 It is against Allotment law for plot holders to sell produce for profit from their allotment. Sale of surplus produce can only take place if it is for the good of the Allotment site as a whole.

2.7 By the 31st October all water butts should be emptied and cleaned and stored upside down. Butts can only refilled if watering of crops is to continue through the winter.

2.8 Poisons, chemical insecticides are wholly banned from the Allotment site as a whole any member found using these products will be issued with seven days nonnegotiable notice.

2.9 Plot compost piles/bins need to be removed if not being used to produce annual compost.

2.10 The tenancy of the plot shall automatically terminate each year on the rent due date 31st October of each year and will not be automatically renewed if

- (i) The tenant is in breach of the rules or has been served notice
- (ii) If the tenant is not duly observing the rules affecting the site.
- (iii) The Tenant hasn't completed and signed the annual agreement

2.9 A 7 day notice to quit will be issued should rent be in arrears for more than 40 days.

2.10 The Public have no right of entry to or over the site, children are permitted but must be accompanied by an adult.

2.11 No dogs are permitted on site unless on a lead and all mess must be cleaned up.

2.12 Tenants are responsible for keeping their contact details up to date with the Association Secretary.



# Site Rules

## Section 3

3.1 Bonfires may only be lit during morning daylight hours any day of the week and contained in a burning incinerator. Please consult any nearby plot holders before lighting a fire to minimise inconvenience. The plot holder is responsible for his/her fire and must douse it before leaving the site. *\*subject to change please see notice board.*

Alternatively a communal burning site is available to use. However, items can only be placed on burn site on dates that the burn site is open (see notice board)it can only be lit by the association appointed fire Marshalls.

3.2 Gates must be kept closed and locked at all times and gate entry codes not given to anybody without prior notification to the committee.

3.3 Use of hosepipes is permitted. The plot holder must be in attendance at all times during irrigation and all hosepipes must be disconnected from the tap after use. Where possible plot holders are encouraged to have a natural water collection area on their plots. \* please avoid stagnant water see item 2.7

3.4 A shed may be built but must not exceed 6ft in height and its floor area no bigger than 24 sq ft. Please consider your neighbours when siting it. \*No structure can be erected without prior written consultation with the committee.

3.5 One fruit tree may be planted per half plot providing they are on M27 dwarfing root stock so its size doesn't affect neighbours sunlight.

3.6 Do not bring tyres, carpets, old furniture or plastic sheeting(to use as planters or weed suppressants) or any such long-lasting items onto site, that are not designed for allotment use. If you should give up your plot, other plot holders have to bear the cost of removing them.

3.7 All members are responsible for the upkeep of the site and 3 Work parties per year will be held - October, March & June - These work parties are for major works and projects. Members are required to attend a minimum of 2 per year and dates placed on the notice board. For members not able to attend the site work parties, there will be a list of jobs that can be done in lieu. \* Making cake and tea at the work parties count too! Members not participating will be subject to a work party charge.

3.8 No alterations or additions may be made to these Rules, except by resolution carried by members present and voting at a General Meeting. Written notice of any proposed alterations or additions must be given to the Honorary Secretary at least 21 days before the General Meeting.

# NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

As an allotment we have association membership which is passed to each member at a cost of £3 per person per annum.

The National Allotment Society (NAS) is the leading national organisation upholding the interests and rights of the allotment community across the UK. We work with government at national and local levels, other organisations and landlords to provide, promote and preserve allotments for all. We offer support, guidance and advice to our members and those with an interest in allotment gardening.

In 2011, His Royal Highness King Charles III kindly agreed to become the Patron of the Society. The King, an avid gardener himself and advocate of green issues, he is also keen to promote and protect the UK's enduring traditions.

One of the membership benefits is Allotment holders liability Insurance

This benefit has been created via an insurance policy purchased by the NAS to give liability cover to member plot holder's. The benefit forms part of the subscription of the above and in order to be added to the policy the member must provide full member contact details to their Secretary and keep those details up to date.

\*\*\*\*The insurance covers the member not the plot. Should a plot be worked by more than one person, **each person** should be a member to benefit from the Liability cover at an additional charge of £3 per person.

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk>

# PLOT HOLDER TENANCY AGREEMENT

## NEW ASH GREEN HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION 22/23

PLOT NUMBER	
NAME	
ADDRESS	
EMAIL	
TELEPHONE	
EMERGENCY CONTACT	
OTHER PLOT HELPERS NAMES & ADDRESSES	

I confirm that the information I have given is correct and that I have read and agreed to adhere to the rules and guidance within this document.

I consent to my details being passed to the National Allotment Society for the use of my membership and for the purpose of insurance only.

Signed

Date

#### OFFICE USE ONLY

- Plot payment received
- NAS Membership
- Other
- NAGHA Membership
- Joining fee for new members



# Useful information

**Chairman**

**Sharon Brine**

**Secretary**

**Michelle Whyte**

**Treasurer**

**Diane Ames**

**Other Committee**

**Jeremy Lamprell - Site management,**

**George Leman - Site management**

**VACANCY - Site management,**

**Eva Ramanauskas - Site Compliance**

**VACANCY- Work party coordinator**

**Emergency contact: 07712004656**

**Fire Marshall - Jim Ramanauskas**

**Bank details: Barclays Bank Sort code 20-24-64 Account number 80881635**

**Email: [newwashgreenallotments@gmail.com](mailto:newwashgreenallotments@gmail.com)**

**Website : [www.nagallotments.org.uk](http://www.nagallotments.org.uk)**