Binswood Allotment Society

Information for Prospective Members

This guide explains what to expect from having a plot at Binswood and how to become a member.

1. Our allotment plots

The Society has a mixture of full-size and half-size plots.

- **Full-size plots:** Approximately 10 yards by 30 yards (9.1m × 27.4m), or 250m².
- **Half-size plots:** Approximately half the area of a full plot, although individual shapes and dimensions vary.

For those new to allotment gardening, a half plot can be a good starting point. Even a half plot provides plenty of space to grow a wide variety of crops.

Plots vary in their condition and facilities. Some are well established with raised beds, sheds or greenhouses, while others may need clearance and preparation before cultivation can begin.

2. Joining the waiting list

If you would like an allotment, you can register your interest through our website.

Scroll to the bottom of the page and select **Join the waiting list**.

There is no charge to join the waiting list.

When a suitable plot becomes available, our Membership & Lettings team will contact prospective members to arrange a viewing.

We recommend viewing a plot before making a decision, so you can assess its size, condition and the work involved.

Availability varies throughout the year, and we cannot guarantee when a plot will become available.

3. Membership fees and plot rents

Our annual plot rents for 2026 are:

Charge	Amount
Full-size plot annual rent	£45
Half-size plot annual rent	£25
One-off joining fee	£25
Refundable plot deposit	Equal to one year's rent

Annual plot rents are normally payable by **31 January**.

The deposit is held separately by the Society and is refundable in accordance with the terms of membership when a plot is surrendered.

Plot rents are reviewed periodically, and the applicable charges will be confirmed before you accept a tenancy.

4. Looking after your plot

Taking on an allotment is enjoyable and rewarding, but it does require a regular commitment.

During the main growing season, particularly in spring and summer, you should expect to visit frequently to keep on top of planting, watering, weeding and harvesting.

Members are expected to:

- Cultivate their plots for growing fruit, vegetables and other permitted plants.
- Keep weeds and overgrowth under control.
- Maintain their plots in a tidy and safe condition.
- Keep adjoining paths clear and accessible.
- Remove unwanted rubbish and materials.
- Be considerate of neighbouring plot holders.

New members are expected to bring their plots into cultivation progressively, with the following general targets:

Time from taking on a plot	Cultivation target
3 months	At least 50%
6 months	At least 75%
9 months	Fully cultivated

We appreciate that plots can take time to establish, particularly where significant clearance is required. If you encounter difficulties, please speak to the Committee as early as possible.

The Society carries out periodic plot inspections to help ensure plots are being maintained and used appropriately.

5. Facilities and site rules

The allotments cover approximately 12 acres, with a network of paths and tracks connecting individual plots.

Water

Communal water supplies are available at locations throughout the site during the growing season, generally from April to September. The mains supply is turned off over winter.

We encourage members to collect and store rainwater wherever possible, particularly following the increasingly dry summers we have experienced.

Sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels

These are permitted subject to the Society's rules and any necessary approval. Please check with the Committee before installing or replacing a structure.

Trees, hedges and boundaries

Fruit trees are permitted subject to the site rules. Ornamental trees require consent, and members must not establish fences or hedges around their plots.

Safety

Members are responsible for maintaining their plots safely. Children must be supervised, and ponds and other potential hazards must comply with the Society's safety requirements.

All members are required to follow the Society's Constitution, Conditions of Membership and Plot & Site Rules, which are available on our website.

6. Being part of the Society

Binswood is more than just a collection of individual plots. We have a friendly community of gardeners who share knowledge, exchange surplus plants and produce, and help one another.

The Society is run by a volunteer Committee and organises activities throughout the year, including:

- Communal working parties to maintain and improve the site.
- Social gatherings and seasonal events.
- An annual general meeting where members can have their say.
- A seed ordering scheme through Kings Seeds.
- Opportunities to help with site improvements and community projects.

Members are encouraged to get involved whenever they can, although participation in social events is entirely optional.

7. Finding the allotments

Binswood Allotment Society has two entrances:

Pedestrian entrance: Through the green gate next to 39 Borrowdale Drive, Leamington Spa, CV32 6NY.

Vehicle entrance: Via the allotment track leading from Northumberland Road (opposite Woodcote Road).

If you are attending a plot viewing, our Membership & Lettings team will confirm where to meet.

8. What happens when you accept a plot?

Once you have viewed a plot and decided to proceed, the Membership & Lettings team will explain the next steps.

These normally include:

1. Confirming your acceptance of the plot and completing your membership registration.
2. Paying the applicable joining fee, plot deposit and any rent due.
3. Receiving the Society's rules and information about your tenancy.
4. Arranging access to the site so you can begin cultivating your plot.

The Committee is happy to answer questions, particularly if this is your first allotment.

9. Contact us

For membership enquiries, please email: binswoodallotmentmembership@gmail.com

Website: https://binswood.allotmin.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to Binswood Allotment Society and hope you will enjoy many productive and rewarding years of allotment gardening.