



Garden Organic  
Ryton Organic Gardens  
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Dear Member,

For 60 years Garden Organic has sought to protect the rich, interdependent, diverse life that makes up our gardens and growing spaces. We are proud to call more than 20,000 members family.

Since moving to Ryton in 1985, the challenges and opportunities we face have changed enormously. Society has changed. Our environment has changed – and continues to do so. In that time, organic growing has become more mainstream and there are now more opportunities to see this in practice across the country.

We exist to get people growing organically – and as we look to the future we want to take our message to more people, communities and schools than ever before. If we are to do this, then now is the time for us to change, and for the way we work to change.

In recent years, it has become clear that the running costs of our base at Ryton are limiting our ability to operate to our full potential. The site is simply too expensive to run and means we are unable to fund projects in other parts of the country where we believe we can make a real difference.

We are fortunate and hugely grateful for the financial support we receive from generous donors each year. We want to make the best use of these donations, and find a sustainable way to operate in the future that will allow us to deliver more projects and have a greater impact across the country and further afield.

That is why our Board of Trustees has asked Garden Organic's management team to look at the options for the Ryton site that are in the best interest of the long-term future of the charity. Ryton holds a special place in our hearts – as we are sure is the case with many of our members. We will be exploring all possible options for the site, but we need to release the financial pressure that comes with owning and managing the land and buildings.

This will allow us to invest more of our time and money in projects that will have the biggest impact and reach the most people.

We are telling you now because we wanted to be open with you about our plans for the future of the charity. While we explore our options, the gardens at Ryton will remain open as usual. Whatever happens in the future, we will keep you informed every step of the way.

This is our chance to move Garden Organic into a new era – one which will better enable us to deliver our vision of a healthy and sustainable world that has embraced organic growing

Together we can ensure that Garden Organic continues to deliver its message to gardeners and communities for another 60 years.

Yours faithfully,

James Campbell  
Chief Executive