

Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Newsletter – April 2023

Chairman:	Adrian Hawthorne	Plots 94B/99
Secretary:	Debra Collins	Plot 5
Treasurer:	John Hollands	Plots 62/110

Welcome: As I write this newsletter the sun is shining and it feels that spring / summer has finally arrived. It is a busy time of year getting our plots ready for all the crops. Never ending weeding, planning, seeds to propagate, and lots of planting with reports of shortages in the shops of fresh fruit and vegetables, this is definitely a good time to have an allotment.

AGM: The Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Annual General Meeting is on the **21st April 2023 at 7.45pm** for an 8pm start, at the **Boys Brigade Hall, Bexleyheath Broadway.**

The committee would like to encourage all members to attend the Annual General Meeting and to get involved in the community of our site. It would be great to many members as possible at the meeting. As an incentive to encourage attendance, each Plot holder attending will be given a free raffle ticket to be drawn at the meeting for a £25 Gift Voucher that can be spent in the on site shop.

Plots: We are still running a waiting list and currently have 14 people on the list waiting for plots. The waiting list numbers remain steady. As soon as one person is offered a plot there is another being added to our waiting list. We have a few new members to our allotment site. Some have experience where others are newbies to the allotment community, I am sure everyone will make them welcome and offer tips and support to help them settle in and succeed.

As per the tenancy agreement, plots need to be 75% cultivated all year. Cultivation survey are carried out regularly. I often receive messages after a polite warning letter is sent stating very valid reasons why a plot has not been worked. Please If for any reason you are unable to manage your plot(s) for a short period, e.g. possibly due to ill health, or awaiting an operation, please let me know via email. This will prevent a letter being sent to you when a Cultivation Survey is carried.

Bonfires: Bonfires are no longer permitted as of the 31st March as per the tenancy agreements.

Water: Water is one of our biggest expenses on site. We need to conserve this as much as possible and collect rain water as much as we can. Rain water is also much better for our crops. If you need any help or support around constructing a water system please speak to a committee member, and they will be more than happy to help.

When using the water tanks please be considerate to other plot holders. If using a wheelbarrow to transfer your watering cans or buckets, please do not fill to the top as so much of the water is lost on the journey back to your plot which is such a waste. Please can I remind everyone that only water cans or things that are dipped into the tanks to collect water are permitted. We are not allowed to connect any hoses; this can lead to a large fine from the council and water board.

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Site Security: The gates to the allotments have been left unlocked on several occasions. Site security is everyone's responsibility please ensure you lock the gate at all times when entering and leaving. We have quite a large site and it is important that everyone feels secure when working on site. The gate should only be left open on a Sunday morning so that the shop is accessible to others.

Facebook: Just a reminder that we have a Facebook page which is being managed by Martin Williams. If you are on Facebook, please follow us and share content that Martin places on there. If you would like to add anything to our page, please speak with Martin.

Website – Our Website is a source of new plot holder enquiries, but it's much more than that! It's a wealth of information about our site and what's going on. We always need new content to keep the site alive – so please contribute anything that you think will be interesting to fellow plot holders. Make the site a 'Favourite' on your computer and access it frequently to be kept up to date. If you have any articles that you would like added to the site then please share with a member of the committee.

Committee Meeting Dates: The Committee meets every other month; these are held on Sundays at 10.30am. I have listed the dates below for your information. We have an Open Access slot on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting for any member who wish to address the committee. Also there is a Diary in the toilet block that can be written in for any points that you would like to raise with the committee. The committee cannot help with concerns if we do not know about them.

Future Meetings:

30th July 2023
24th Sept 2023
26th Nov 2023
28th Jan 2024

I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM.

Best Wishes

Debra Collins (Secretary)