

Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Newsletter – Summer 2024

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

Welcome: As I write this newsletter the sun is finally shining and the sky is blue. Hoping this will last more than a day or two. What wet weather we have had, I think mother nature is very confused to what season we are supposed to be in. The snails and slugs are loving it but gardeners are not.

Water: With all the rain we have been having hopefully all your water butts are full. It is important to have as many water butts on your plots as possible to gather rain water. Rain water is better for crops and helps keep our water costs down. If you would like advice on setting up a water system, please speak to a committee member or other plot holders.

Please can we all be thoughtful and considerate to all our neighbours when it comes to watering. The tanks will refill but may take some time particularly at the top end of the site. Everyone wants to keep crops hydrated. You cannot place any pumps into the water tanks to syphon water off and nothing can be added to the water system this is an offense. Please don't overfill the buckets or watering cans as often lots of water is spilt and lost on the way back to the plot.

Plots: A cultivation survey is being carried out this week (26th June). There are a few plots that are looking unmanaged and need to be brought up to the required conditions to meet the tenancy agreement.

Ruxley in Bloom: We have entered the Ruxley in Bloom competition again this year. We have previously won this on several occasions but sadly not for the past few years. We are keen to regain the title this year of 'Best Overall Site'. There are lots of members who help maintain and keep all the communal areas of the site looking nice such as flower boxes, lawns mowed, and toilet block maintained. Every plot holder could also help by maintaining their plots to the requirements of the tenancy agreement and trimming the grass at the end of their plots, as well as maintaining pathways. The judges will visit between the 15th July and 15th August 2024. We do not yet have an exact date.

Site Security: Security of the site is everyone's responsibility. Please can I remind everyone to lock the gates when they enter and leave the site. It is a large site, and is good for all members to feel secure when working on their plots. Sadly, I include this item in nearly every newsletter and yet the gates are often left unlocked. Hanging the padlock on the latch, is not locking the gate. Our site is vast, and it is not possible to hear what is happening all over the site. We have recently had some minor thefts, also we have lots of female plot holders that often work on their own. Please let's make the site security one less thing that we all need to worry about. It does not take much to stop and lock the gates as you enter and exit the site.

Log Book: Just a reminder that the log book is kept in the toilet block for all members to record any incidences relating to the site. Recent thefts have been reported to committee members but not logged in the site book. I know everybody thinks what's the point, but it could help to identify a trend such as the day of the week when the thefts occur or time of day. There may be some thefts going unreported, which means that the committee do not have all the facts of the scale of the problem.

Recently we have had weeds being thrown on to the paths / driveways as well as rubbish and dogs faeces bags, this is laziness and totally unacceptable anti-social behaviour. Your tenancy will be at risk if you are found to be carrying out any anti-social behaviour on site.

Please could any plot holder that wishes to use weed killer on their plot ensure that they read the instructions carefully and be considerate around weather conditions when using this. I recently received an email from a plot holder as a plot nearby had used weedkiller on a very windy and rainy day. The lady reported she could smell it strongly as it flew over her plot, even though she was some distance away from where it had been sprayed.

Debra Collins – Secretary, 07951 723874, secretary@alersroadallotments.org

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Machinery: We are fortunate that our site has a range of machinery and tools that can be borrowed for a very small fee. Please if you do borrow any of the machinery such as the lawn mower or strimmer, make sure that you empty and clean it before returning it. It is not the committee members role to clean up after people.

Please do not use the strimmer near any parked cars, there is always a risk of stones flying up and damaging vehicles. It is the user's responsibility to use the machine safely and respectfully to any one or thing around them. If any damage is caused then the user will be liable.

Website & Social Media – More items are being placed on the website which has encouraged people to visit the site and view the content. The website can be a good source of information and the committee would like to encourage all plot holders to think about any articles that they could write and share.

We are still looking for any member of the site that may be able to help and support the committee with setting up and running the social media sites such as Facebook / Instagram / X. If anyone is proficient in using social media and could spare a little time to either train a committee member or help set these up it would be much appreciated. I am sure there is a range of experiences out there. If you would be interested in helping set up Facebook or Instagram please feel free to contact one of the committee members or contact me at secretary@alersroadallotments.org

Committee Meeting Dates: The Committee meets every other month; on a Sunday at 10.30am. We have an Open Access slot on the agenda at the beginning of each meeting for any member who wishes to address the committee with any allotment matters.

Bonfires: A friendly reminder that bonfires are not allowed after the 1st April. The allotment has many residential properties neighbouring it and we need to be considerate and respectful to all our neighbours. Any plot holder that has any bonfires after the 1st of April will be in breach of their tenancy agreement and are at risk of having their tenancy terminated.

Debra Collins (Secretary)