

Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Autumn Newsletter – August 2022

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

Weather / Heatwave: Well, its nice to have a sunny summer in England, but this is extreme and brings it's challenges to all of us with the lack of rain and extreme heats. I hope everyone is keeping well and hydrated.

Several of our neighbours have raised concerns regarding the compost heaps and grass piles on the allotment, due to the risks of fire. Also barbecues and smoking on the site. Please can we ask all plot holders to be very vigilant. The fire brigade has recommended that disposable BBQ are not used during our current heatwave due to the risks of fires. If you are having a BBQ please make sure that you have a bucket of water available. If you are a smoker, please be careful and ensure that you have put the cigarette out safely.

To prevent the compost heaps becoming too big please consider taking some of the waste away from the site and disposing at the recycling centres or your home waste bins.

Plots: We are still running a waiting list and currently have 15 people on the list. 2 plots are currently vacant and will be re-let in the next week.

As per the tenancy agreement, plots need to be 75% cultivated all year. A cultivation survey will be carried out shortly. If for any reason you are unable to manage the plot 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.

Driveways: A polite reminder that the speed limit on the allotment site is **5 MPH**, please adhere to this limit to prevent any accidents and damage to the site. A hole / dip is occurring at the end of the brick drive area due to the ground being churned up as people driving in and out of the site and turning too quickly. The Committee is looking for a solution to this but keeping to the speed limit of 5 mph will help.

There are 2 car parks for members to park their cars. There is no parking allowed on the drive ways as this blocks access for others. You can stop on the driveways to unload your vehicles, but must then move your car to one of the designated parking areas.

Toilet Block – We are lucky that we have our toilet facility, as you will probably be aware, some years ago a team of our plot holders worked hard to build the toilet for everyone's use. The toilet is cleaned regularly via a rota by a few plot holders, and we are in desperate need of more volunteers to add to this rota. Please let us know if you could help?

Unfortunately, despite all the notices including the large banner the toilet block, it continues to be misused. Please, Please DO NOT put anything other than toilet paper down the toilet. We continue to find that nappies etc are still being dropped down the pit.

Pathways: One of the main concerns that we have from members, is the paths between the plots. Some plots are not being maintained which makes it difficult for members using wheelbarrows as well as some of our members who have some mobility restrictions. Please can I remind everyone that it is their responsibility and part of the tenancy agreement to maintain the path to the right side of your plot as you face your plot from the

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nearest road. Ensuring it is in good order and usable, with the grass cut and the paths free of overhanging crops / bushes and clutter to allow them to be used safely and allow access to all.

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.

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.

Donations of Old tools: A friend of mine, Mandy Rawsthorne, is collecting gardening tools for Sri Lanka. In the past she has shipped out clothes and disability aids in the name of the Chinthakas Trust. In the current climate of Sri Lanka, she has been asked for any tools that will enable people to cultivate and grow crops to help them feed their families and be self-sufficient and sustaining. If any one has any old tools that they no longer want and are happy for me to pass on to Mandy please contact me via email or leave on my plot (plot 5) it will all be much appreciated.

Best Wishes

Debra Collins (Secretary)

For Fun:

Gardening Quiz

1. Who was the presenter of *Gardeners' World* from 1969 to 1976?
2. What name is given to the Japanese art of flower arranging?
3. Helianthus is another name for which flower?
4. Which television presenter and gardener owns a garden in Herefordshire called Longmeadow?
5. Often used in salads, what has the botanical name *nasturtium officinale*?
6. Vanilla flavouring is derived from which flower?
7. What has varieties beefsteak, plum and cherry?
8. Which tree was traditionally planted in graveyards and is associated with eternity?
9. What word is used to describe plants that like acid soil and will not grow in alkaline soils?
10. Which fruit was cultivated from crossing a blackberry and a raspberry?