

## Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Winter Newsletter December 2020

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**Chairman:**

**Adrian Hawthorne**

**Plots 94B/99**

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

**John Hollands**

**Plots 62/110**

**Welcome** – Well I suppose the less we say about 2020 the better!! It's been quite a year for us all. We've missed the Wisley Outing and the Horticultural Show and are still having to apply Social-Distancing. It looks like we're going into 2021 with some restrictions still in place, but the news of a vaccine at least gives us hope that we will be returning to something like normal sometime soon. In the meantime be glad you've got a plot and enjoy coming to site – even in the wind, rain and freezing fog!!! Keep a smile on your face!

***Chairman's Appeal: Secretary Needed*** – As you are all aware by now, John Hollands has given notice that he will be stepping down from his role as Secretary at the AGM in April. So I am making this appeal for anyone who feels that they would be able and willing to take on this essential position to put their name forward. John has stated he is happy to continue in his role as Treasurer and as a serving committee member, so will be able to shadow the new incumbent ensure a smooth transition for the new post holder.

*I know how much John's dedication and hard work has helped to ensure the efficient running of ARLGA, and in providing the facilities which we all enjoy.*

*If we are not able to fill the role of Secretary, then Alers Road allotments would revert to become a council run site. This means we would be dependent on the council for running and maintaining the site. Quite plainly this would mean the provision of service and maintenance would be diminished and the resolution of day to day issues and problems greatly delayed or worse still, not practically effected. We would lose all access to the site machinery – Mowers; Strimmers; Cultivators – and would also be subject to the Council's Health and Safety regulations which could mean we have to remove anything the Council regard as a hazard. Other sites have had to remove all carpet and ironwork.*

*As indicated in the previous newsletter, the role of Secretary could be split between Secretary and Site Coordinator. The Secretary being responsible for administrative tasks and the Site Coordinator for practical maintenance.*

*A breakdown of the required tasks for the roles is available so please let either myself or John know if you are interested in fulfilling one or both of these important roles.*

**Site Security Main Gate** – As always please ensure that the gates are shut and locked. We've had other problems with gate recently. The padlock became worn and was becoming increasingly difficult to open. It has now been replaced and I hope you all now can enter and exit in a trouble free manner. A new sign has been attached to the gate making it clear that the lock should never be oiled. This simply bungs-up the mechanism and causes further issues. If you have a problem – let a Committee member know. You will have also seen a second new sign. This is to remind everyone that the bolt on the right-hand gate as you come in **MUST** be latched up when the gate is closed. It seems a simple thing, but I think some ploholders think it needs to be left down for security. This isn't the case – in fact leaving it down stops everyone from opening the gate from the outside. So please latch the bolt up when closing the gates.

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**Water Supply** – As you will know from the previous Newsletter we have problems with some of our water tanks. One was replaced last year as holes had developed due to what appeared to be some type of chemical reaction? We then found a further tank leaking with the same problem. A repair using cement and bitumen was attempted, but was unsuccessful. Once the water was turned off we emptied each tank and inspected for any similar damage. Nine were found to have similar damage, but were not leaking. We are currently trying a repair with a spray sealant that we hope will inhibit any further damage so we don't end up with leaking tanks. We will certainly have replace two tanks which will cost in the region of £500. Please always be vigilant and should you see areas of damp around a tank please let us know straightaway.

**Bonfires** – As we all know they are allowed from 1<sup>st</sup> October until 31<sup>st</sup> March, however please stick to the guidelines. There have been one or two situations since 1<sup>st</sup> October where the guidelines have not been followed, and these instances have been dealt with appropriately. We all know the guidelines are common sense – please use yours if you are considering having a bonfire.

**Cultivation Surveys** – These will resume from March 2021. Even though we have been in Lock-Down; Tier 2; Tier 3, we are lucky that we've all been able to attend the site – keeping a safe Social-Distance – so everyone's plot should be looking good. In our last Newsletter we asked if anyone was concerned that the Covid crisis would stop them being able to obtain the Tenancy Agreement's requirement of 75% cultivation by March and were please that no one felt they would suffer due to the restrictions. As such I look forward to a simple Cultivation Survey process with no 'Naughty' letters required.

**Site Machinery** – Mowers; Strimmers; Cultivators. Available from Committee member key holders (*John Hollands/62,110; Eddy Haydon/23,24; Ray Mitchell/56; Roy Seymour/53; Adrian Hawthorne/99.*) for a contribution to the 'Honesty Tin' to help pay for the petrol, line etc. Please use the safety equipment provided and treat the machinery with respect. If a problem occurs don't just put the tool away – let the Committee member who gave it out know the problem. In addition we have a range of maintenance tools and a workshop with a bench and vice etc. including a generator for power and light. Again if you'd like to use these facilities or would like to see just what's available please ask any of the above key holders.

**Site Log Book** – I'm please to say that there have been few reported incidents this year so far. Comments about the water supply have been noted and the Committee are investigating ways to mitigate the problem as far as it is possible. It's very important that you record all incidents in the Site Log Book which is kept in the toilet.

**Finally** –. Rather than look back on a difficult year – let's look forward to Spring and a new growing season.

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Best Regards

*John*