

Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Autumn Newsletter – October 2021

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

Thoughts from Chairman, Adrian: 'Having lived with Covid 19 for the past eighteen months, we allotment holders are fortunate that we have the open spaces and facilities at Alers Road that makes us appreciative of the hearty exercise and the satisfaction of producing our own healthy produce. Suddenly we have also a CO2 shortage, as well as a lack of lorry drivers, which is threatening our food supplies. So once again we can feel fortunate. No wonder that there is a surge of interest in allotments!'

Message from Secretary: If anyone would like to write a piece for the newsletter, to share top tips, knowledge / experience, what has worked well, or not worked well to help beginners and new plot holders. Likewise, if anyone wants to ask a question or want advice, they can be sent to me via the email address.

Information from Treasurer: Enclosed with this Newsletter is your invoice for plot rent from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022 and includes your subscription for Bexleyheath Horticultural Society for 2022. You will see that the rent has increased by 2p per SqMt (1p concessions) in line with the Council's increase. Our rent is still 2p per SqMt lower than the Council's, the minimum we are allowed to charge. You will also notice that the rents have been rounded to the nearest £. This is to make life easier for all. Payment by Bank Transfer is preferred.

It is statutory that we give one year's notice of any plot rent increase, and we have been informed by the Council that their rent for October 22 to September 23 will be increased by 4p per SqMt. This is a significant increase and has been challenged by the Bexley Federation of Allotments, but with no success. As far as I can determine there was no consultation on this increase – it was 'Imposed'. The Federation are hoping that they can convince the Council that they will make no further increase for the following year.

Due to the above may I formally inform you that the plot rents for Oct 22 to Sept 23 will increase by 4p (2p Concessions) per SqMt. Our rent will still be 2p per SqMt less than the Council's rents.

Plots: We have just re-let 2 full plots and 2 half plots and would like to welcome Sarah (21A), Stacey (16), Gary (23B), Xing (2) to the site and wish them success with their plots. We have 13 people remaining on the waiting list.

Ruxley in Bloom: Our allotment site came 2nd place with a Gold award in the Ruxley in Bloom competition 2021. Thank you to everyone who helped get the site ready for Judges. We will be entering again next year and hoping to achieve first place.



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Congratulations to Gerry Hockley (plots 74 & 75) for achieving 2nd Place for best allotment plot achieving a Gold Certificate in the category.

Congratulations to Eddy Haydon who was awarded 1st place with a gold certificate of achievement in the Best Front Garden – seasonal or containers display category.

Richard Collins also received a Gold certificate of Achievement award for his allotment plot.

If any other plot holders would like to know more about entering the competition next year please have a chat with other members of the allotment or a committee member. It is nice to have some recognition for all your hard work on the plots.

Toilet Block – We are lucky that we have our toilet facility, as you will probably be aware, some years ago a team of our ploholders worked hard to build the toilet for everyone's use. The toilet is cleaned regularly via a rota by a few ploholders, 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: When the cultivation survey was carried out and when showing prospective plot holders around the site, it was noted that several paths are not being maintained, making it hard and unsafe to move around the site. 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. 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.

Best regards

Debra Collins (Secretary)

For Fun:

X L S P A D E C K Q W B I R D S D
M D H F S F L O W E R S J S Q A B
C V E G E T A B L E S T Y M F N O
O C D K Z A S G R A S S E R O J N
M F S S W D I G G I N G G O R P F
P D H S E V Q Z N N R P O W K H I
O T U E K F B W S W E L L I E S R
S C W S H U D W Z O J L B S S E E
T C G O W W H E E L B A R R O W S

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S U E N R A L L O T M E N T A I L
B H J O P M V S D E O X Q I M H V
K L F W A I S T R A W B E R R Y A

HOE	GRASS	BUGS	FORK	BIRDS	BONFIRES
VEGETABLES	WHEELBARROW	STRAWBERRY	WORMS	WEEDS	DIGGING
FLOWERS	SHEDS	SPADE	WELLIES	COMPOST	ALLOTMENT