

# Leominster Allotment Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 7.00pm at Leominster Town Council Offices.

**Committee members present:** Lesley Marsh (Chair), John Braithwaite, Jane Lacey, Viv Pearson, Ann Purcell.

**Others present:** John Andress, Becca Antink, Cathy Fewlas, Steve Gallimore, Heather Harding, Mr & Mrs Jordan, Bill Lloyd, Mary Locock, David Lovegrove, Sue Morris, Mr & Mrs Nicol, Bernard Preece, Chris Preece, Mr & Mrs Ray Wall **Apologies:** Michael Bloy.

**Minutes:** Christine Conlon (copy to Iain Plumtree, Town Clerk)

Items
<p><b>Opening matters</b></p> <p>Minutes from the previous A.G.M. meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013, were approved as a true record of last year's meeting.</p>
<p>Chairman's Report – Lesley Marsh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesley recently visited the organically run Ludlow Allotments to see what could be applied to Leominster Allotments. As with our allotments, there are 'ups and downs' and there are some enthusiastic people making a fantastic effort. Theirs has only 30 plots, so theirs is much smaller than ours. There are no boundaries around the plots. They have many good ideas that we could use e.g. they use straw bales as boundaries and as mulch. In Ludlow, it's a rule of tenancy that membership subscription is collected with the rental for the plots. We are working towards that. We could learn much from other allotment groups.</li><li>• A change of personnel at the Town council has introduced Heather Harding as the new Deputy Town Clerk. The Town Council is keen to be in partnership with Leominster Allotment Association and other local groups.</li><li>• There were no events at the allotments this year as we are all concentrating on getting the whole site into an acceptable level before planning anything for next year following the poor weather resulting in under-occupancy.</li><li>• The weather has improved this year, but the Association continues to look for ways to alleviate onsite flooding e.g. Ray Wall has dug drainage channels for this purpose.</li><li>• Currently, there are just two plots vacant now, contrasting with last year when under-occupancy was a problem (excluding the lower plots which will remain un-let until the drainage works are completed).</li><li>• The Awards evening was held in October at the Forbury rooms in Leominster.</li><li>• The next project for the Allotment Association is the onsite Community Shelter. The Town Council are in the process of seeking planning permission. The shelter is to be closed-sided, 12' x 8' and it is planned to use it for meetings and social events.</li><li>• Allotment Association membership has increased to 60 members.</li></ul>

**Treasurer's report - Jane Lacey**

The income was **£786.77**, expenditure was **£625.24**. Balance in bank account is £1,112.62  
 Further details are included in the accounts extract below:

**Leominster Allotment Association Accounts**

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

**INCOME**

Dates	Subsc.	Seeds	Odds	Paid in	Float
Nov 2013		386.64		386.64	
Jan 2014		45.13		45.13	
Gate refund			75.00	75.00	
April 2014	140.00			140.00	
May 2014	115.00			115.00	
June 2014	25.00			25.00	
	a	b	c		20.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£280.00</b>	<b>£431.77</b>	<b>£75.00</b>	<b>£786.77</b>	

**a+b+c**

**Total monies in = £786.77**

August 2013 – July 2014

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

**EXPENDITURE**

Dates	Subscriptions/ Affiliation	Seeds	Insurance	Expenses	paid out
7th Jan 2014				5.44	5.44
Sept 2013 (40)	80.00				80.00
May 2014 (15)	33.75				33.75
Jan 2014 (40)			92.19		92.19
May 2014 (15)			27.26		27.26
Nov 2013		341.47			341.47
Jan 2014		45.13			45.13
	a	b	c	d	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£113.75</b>	<b>£386.60</b>	<b>£119.45</b>	<b>£5.44</b>	<b>£625.24</b>

**a+b+c+d**

**Total Monies out = £625.24**

August 2013 – July 2014

**Balance in bank account is £1,112.62**

This year, there hasn't been any fund-raising, hence there isn't as much in the account.

NSALG affiliation has increased by 25p.

### **Memberships Secretary's report – Ann Purcell**

- Membership has increased to sixty members. The cost of membership is still £5.
- On our behalf, Heather has been promoting the work of the Association and the benefits of membership and requesting the £5 subscription at the same time as annual plot rental. These have almost aligned, which will be a change for the better.
- The allotments and the Association were promoted with an exhibition in Leominster library, and we gained a new tenant with this display.
- Insurance cover is with the NSALG. Although insurance is not payable until January each year, all members of the Association are covered. The NSALG insures in blocks of 10, so if we have 60+ members, we will increase it to cover 70 members.

### **Seed Secretary's report – John Braithwaite**

- Catalogues for Kings seeds were distributed at this meeting
- Put in your seed order (through John) by 6<sup>th</sup> November and the Association will receive a discount of 18%, which goes into the funds.
- Later orders will still receive a discount, but it will be smaller, at 10%.
- The numbers of catalogues sent to us is dependent on the sales made to allotment Association members in the previous year.

### **Election of Officers**

- **Lesley Marsh** - remains as **Chairman**
- **Viv Pearson** - remains on the committee
- **John Braithwaite** - remains as **Seed Secretary**
- **Christine Conlon** - remains as **Minutes Secretary**
- **John Gallimore** - voted in as **Treasurer**  
(**Jane Lacey** is standing down but retained as a member of the committee)
- **Membership Secretary** – will now be **Jane Lacey**  
(Ann Purcell standing down from this office)

Members voted onto the committee:

**Becca Antink**  
**Chris Preece**  
**Cathy Fewlas**  
**Ray Wall**

These appointments were proposed, seconded and agreed by those who attended the meeting.

Jane Lacey was thanked for her work as Treasurer and keeping the accounts.

Ann Purcell was also thanked for her work as Membership Secretary.

### **Any other business**

- There was agreement that the Association needs more representative views and fresh ideas from Association members and plot holders.
- The Association will hold an Open Allotments day in 2015 in conjunction with Leominster Open Gardens and the Leominster Festival.
- Thanks were given to Sue Morris for monitoring and replacing various supplies for the tree bog toilets.
- The Association's Social Evening is on Friday 3rd October, 6.30pm for 7pm at the Forbury, Church Street. The room is booked from 6pm until 10pm
- Please encourage Association members to attend the meetings which we hold every two months, 6 per year. We have short meetings – lasting from 7pm to 8.30pm.
- When meeting dates are set for the year, these will be e-mailed to Association members.
- We continue to use e-mails for communication with members, currently e-mailing 48 members. For efficiency, we would like more e-mail addresses to communicate to members. E-mail [c.conlon@btinternet.com](mailto:c.conlon@btinternet.com) to add or update your contact details.
- Eardisland has a Community Garden for the local junior school – perhaps we could try doing that here, giving a reduced rate for Leominster's school. The NSALG has a school membership. To discuss at further meetings.
- We do not have a quotation for laying the pipeline to alleviate flooding yet.
- Vermin traps – more needed in the centre track ways. These are set three times a year. Let Deputy Town Clerk Heather, know where they are needed.
- A Poplar tree near to the entrance is to be felled to enable better access for vehicles.
- Please let Heather know if there is any free manure available.
- Kings seeds catalogues taken by members at the meeting. Don't forget to send in your orders to John Braithwaite.
- Help will be needed to level the ground when shed permission is granted.
- Thanks are given to Ray Wall and John Braithwaite for the work they are doing for the allotments.

**Next Annual General Meeting:** Wednesday 26th August 2015, 7pm Town Council Offices.

Please bring a copy of these minutes with you to the next A.G.M. meeting.