



# LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER

## September 2015

### **Plant Stall – 30<sup>th</sup> May**

The Allotment Association was invited to participate in the launch of the Leominster Festival, when we had a plant and produce stall on the Grange.

Whilst the main reason for having a stall was to fundraise for our Community Site, it is also important that we connect with the wider community and our presence certainly interested several potential allotment gardeners.

There was a great collective effort, initially to produce seedlings, plants and produce and on the day to set up and manage the stall. A huge thank you goes to everyone who gave their time to participate and make the day enjoyable and successful. We raised £157.80.

### **Summer Barbeque – 8th August**

On this beautiful sunny summer's day, we celebrated the official opening of our Community Shed and garden by inviting all allotment gardeners to share a barbeque. The newly acquired marquee was erected to provide some welcome shade. A big thank you to Jenny and Bernard Preece for donating the barbeque and Jess and Richard Croot who cooked the burgers, sausages and veggie kebabs for us all.

We were delighted that around fifty people shared a relaxing afternoon, although frankly, we weren't expecting such a good response, so next year we will be better prepared. Thanks to all who helped make this first Community Site event a success.

A word on recycling. A few people commented that on the day, all waste i.e. food, paper, plastic and glass was placed together in plastic rubbish sacks. Do be assured that during the following day it was all sorted for recycling and, yes, it was a most unpleasant job!

**Car Boot** This event was postponed. Hopefully there will be more details in the next newsletter.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Harvest Supper and Awards Evening – 2nd October**

- We look forward to celebrating this year's harvest as well as the presentation of awards by the Mayor at this bring and share supper, to be held at Grange Court. Although the closing date was 18<sup>th</sup> September, late arrivals are most welcome.

- **Apple Fair – 17th October**

We have been invited to have a stall at this lovely seasonal event. If you would like to help, please speak to a committee member or leave a note in the Community Shed.

- **St Edfrith Celebration – 24th October**

The Association has also been invited to represent the allotments at this event in Corn Square. We have yet to commit to this venue, but it is important to raise the profile of allotment gardening and 'growing your own', so any volunteers please make contact.

### **Seed Catalogues**

A reminder that Kings Seed catalogues are available in the Community Shed for all association members. Kings Seeds are known for their fine quality and good service and we are fortunate that we can save between 40 - 50 % by ordering through the Allotment Association.

The early order dates mean that as well as each allotment gardener having greatly reduced prices, the Allotment Association is given an additional discount which benefits the site as a whole. For instance, last years discount funded the marquee.

Please place your orders in the post box which is situated in the Community Shed, ready for John to collect and process. If you need any assistance with the order form, please ask John or any committee member.

As all orders are individually wrapped for your convenience, please add the £1 package charge for this service to your order. John manages our seed orders with meticulous attention to detail and we thank him for his continued commitment.

### **Website - [www.leominsterallotments.org.uk](http://www.leominsterallotments.org.uk)**

Please continue to send articles and recipes and take a look at what's going on. Thank you to Chris Preece.

### **Update on Community Site**

Another reminder (yes, still needed) that your gate key also opens the Community Shed. The shed is being used for reading, meeting up and for shelter. It's for all to share, so do come along. If you have any second hand gardening books or magazines, your donations would be welcome.

Also, if you have any leaflets or brochures of gardens you have visited, please share with us. Plastic holders are in the shed.

We have two folders, one with information relevant to allotments and one containing minutes and newsletters (also on the website).

The community garden is developing too. Thanks to Ray for looking after the lawn and to John and Chris for the productive greenhouse which is for anyone to access. Just ask the 'boys' as they co-ordinate its use.

John is also doing a brilliant job with the fruit section and hopefully trained fruit will be a future addition.

We have plenty of flowers for the (mainly) perennial border, however any help with weeding would be greatly appreciated!

## **Update on the allotment site**

### **Flood Alleviation**

Drainage work on the track way between the car parks is due to commence on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The track way will be inaccessible for approximately three weeks, so please park in the 1<sup>st</sup> car park and walk along the grass paths. The ground is becoming quite soft so driving is not advisable. Indeed, remember that the five-bar gates will be put in position once it is estimated that the grass track ways would be damaged and rutted by vehicular use.

### **Composting**

A new composting facility is planned for part of the currently unused area of the site. There will be three composting bays, the proposed dimensions of which are to be 6' H x 8' D x 10' W, and will be for the use of allotment gardeners (good for those with pernicious weeds) as well as the employees of the Town Council who will also turn the compost. So good news – watch this space!

### **Rubbish**

While the majority of gardeners value and respect this beautiful allotment site, a minority, perhaps even just one person spoils it by dumping rubbish – please don't. Take it to the tip or if you don't have transport, ask someone to do it for you.

### **Dogs and Their Do's**

Yet another plea to bag your dog's waste. It is at best unpleasant and at worst a dangerous health risk.

### **Sad News**

It is with great sadness that we report the death, earlier in September, of fellow allotment gardener, Derek Cooke. We will all miss him.

### **...and finally**

A couple of weeks ago on a fine late summer afternoon, a friend and I visited the allotments and started to weed the communal flower border, when along came two colleagues. Without having to twist their arms (not a good thing to do to any gardener) they just joined in.

When we had completed the task we retired to the Community Shed and enjoyed a chat and a glass of Chris's Damson Gin. Now that's what I call community spirit!

**Happy gardening all.**

(Cathy Fewlass)

