



Leominster Allotment Association

Newsletter Sept 2016

Allotment Barbeque

23rd July

Our summer barbeque held on the community site was a great success.

It was funded by Leominster Town Council whose generous donation of £250.00 marked the celebration of 10 years since the inception of Ginhall Lane Allotments.

The burgers and sausages, from nearby Quarry Farm, were accompanied by a grand selection of interesting and enjoyable salads, followed by a choice of cakes, trifles and fruit salad.

We were delighted (and relieved!) that the weather was beautifully sunny and warm.

Thanks go to everyone who helped prepare and tidy up after this event, and to all allotment gardeners who supported their colleagues by attending this event.

Regional Meeting of West Midlands Branch of the National Allotment Society

6th August

This was the second occasion on which this meeting was hosted by our allotment association. The meeting was held at the Forbury.

Although most meetings are held within the conurbation of Birmingham and Coventry, the regional committee is keen to be inclusive and will, if invited, venture out into 'the sticks'. As well as some Leominster plot-holders there were people from Bucknell, Hereford and Uttoxeter.

The afternoon began with a talk on the growing and storing of vegetables. This was an informative presentation whereby most of us gained new knowledge.

Following afternoon tea and delicious home-made cakes the regional meeting took place.

It was an interesting afternoon and it is always beneficial to network with other allotment holders, sharing experiences both good and bad! It was a shame that many plot-holders missed this opportunity.

Thank you to our cake makers, those who made tea and coffee and those who set up the hall and cleared away.

Allotment Association Annual General Meeting

24th August

The meeting was held for a second year in the foyer of Grange Court. In addition to the current committee members just four allotment gardeners attended.

The Association is delighted that Gill Murdoch is our newly elected Chairperson.

The committee members are:

Chris Preece – Deputy Chair
Steve Gallimore – Treasurer
Christine Conlon – Minutes Secretary
Jane Lacey – Membership Secretary
John Braithwaite – Seed secretary
Cathy Fewlass
Lesley Marsh
Viv Pearson
Ray Wall

Many thanks to Lesley Marsh who has chaired the Association for the past 5 years.

Reminder to all

Again, we ask you to close the allotment gates when you enter and leave the site.



Please make sure you lock the gates if you are the last person to leave the allotment site. See Julie's report below.

The lock on the pedestrian gate is more difficult to un/lock but it does work.

Winter is coming

From mid-October the internal gates will be locked as the pathways become too wet for vehicles.

The water will be turned off at the same time.

Community plot and shed

The community plot needs volunteers for weeding and a general tidy up.

Message from Julie Debbage at the Town Council

The Town Council would like to thank everyone for paying their rentals and would like to remind allotment holders to keep us up to date with contact details.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at the Town Council Offices, in person, by phone on 01568 611734 or email

ongrounds@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk

or

admin@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk

Don't forget about the trip to **Bisley** Community Compost Scheme, near Stroud, **on 8th October leaving Leominster Bus Station at 8.30am**. The cost of the trip is only **£5**.

We shall meet Lesley Greene and Steve Trinder, Scheme Directors, who will be able to answer any questions we have about setting up our own scheme. Please dress warmly if the weather is cold as I believe that the site is quite exposed.

On another note, I have had several crop thefts reported. I have mentioned them to the local PCSO but it is really important that allotment holders also report them to the Police on 101. As I call this number most weeks, I can report that it is a really quick and simple process which enables other reported thefts in the area to be linked together, which means better intelligence and it will raise awareness of issues.

I have arranged for some free manure to be delivered to the central parking area. Please help yourselves. I also save the plastic vegetable crates from the market and leave them on the swap table. Hopefully they will be useful for drying vegetables and save the crates from going to landfill.

Forthcoming Events

Community Composting Visit

Great news! We are invited to an allotment site in Bisley, Gloucestershire where there is a very successful community composting system.

Saturday 8th
October

See Julie's report from the Town Council below and notices displayed around the allotment site.

Apple Fair The Priory

We will not be having a stall at the Apple fair this year, but it is worth a visit.

Saturday 15th
October

Harvest Supper & Awards

Friday 7th
October

The Harvest Supper will be held on Friday 7th October at 7.00 pm in Grange Court, John Abel room.

We hope you can all join us for a fantastic evening of fun and gluttony where we share dishes brought by everyone.

This year those with even-numbered plots, please bring the sweet course. Those with odd-numbered plots please bring the savoury course. Please bring a label for the dish you bring – so we know what's in it.

Bring your own drinks.

Kings Seeds Catalogues



It's time to assess this year's growing success and plan for next year.

Kings Seeds are both great quality and value, and as members of the National Allotment Society we receive a substantially discounted price.

Kings Seeds catalogues are available now in the community shed, so take some time to browse and choose next year's crops.

Please remember to add £1.00 to your total so that your order can be individually packaged. **Place your completed orders in the post box in the community shed** ready for John to process.

We all benefit from lower prices but also the Association is given a discount (more for early orders, less for later ones) which helps us keep membership fees unchanged.

Order deadlines:
Saturday 5th November
Saturday 10th December

Incidentally, for several years one of our gardeners has grown an outdoor bush tomato called KORALIK which is blight resistant and produces prolific tasty small tomatoes. This variety is now available from Kings for the first time in the organic section on page 145. Good news indeed!!

We thank John Braithwaite for his continued management of seed orders.
