

Allotment Newsletter

Ginhall Lane Allotments October 2011

This issue of the Newsletter is devoted in its entirety to contributions from the Allotment Association
AGM Report

This year's AGM was held on 3/8/11 at the council offices.

The following officers were elected:

- Lesley Marsh to be Chair
- ◇ Christine Conlon Secretary
- ◇ Jane Lacey Treasurer
- ◇ Cathy Fewlass Membership Secretary
- ◇ John Braithwaite seeds secretary
- ◇ Viv Pearson Publicity Officer
- ◇ Jess Croot Social Secretary
- ◇ David Russell continues to be our link with the Town Council.

Open Day Open Day, held over the weekend of 11 and 12 June, was well supported on the first day, but the second was spoiled by torrential rain. The number of people coming forward to help with the Open Days was most encouraging, and the help received was very welcome.

Barbecue held on 25 June was sparsely attended.

Produce show held in the Priory on 20 August, where entries were very thin on the ground. The committee will run both the latter events next year, but will hope for more support from all interested plot holders.

Next year's events

- ◇ Open day followed by Barbecue 24/6/12
- ◇ Produce show in the Priory 11/8/12
- ◇ Pumpkin and Scarecrow Day 29/9/12
- ◇ Harvest Supper 5/10/12.

Scarecrow and Pumpkin Competition 2011

Both competitions were judged on Sunday 25 September.

The winning pumpkin weighed a staggering 49lbs and was grown by Mr. and Mrs. Ingram.

The second was 33lbs grown by Mr. John Jones.

The third was 28 lbs grown by Mary Braithwaite

Congratulations to all those who took part.

The winning Scarecrow was won by Mr and Mrs Ingram plot 32

The second prize went to Mrs Morris plot 18.

Harvest Supper and Awards Evening October 7 2011 at 7.00pm

After much debate, it has been decided that this year's Harvest Supper will be held in the Forbury Chapel, numbers will be limited to 50, so please let David Russell at the Town Council offices (611734) or a Committee Member know if you are coming. Awards will be presented by the Mayor during the evening. It will be a "bring and share supper", odd number allotment - please bring a savoury dish and even number allotment - please bring a pudding. Crockery and cutlery will be supplied but please bring your own glasses and drink (alcoholic or not).

Site Tidiness

All plot holders should remember that the beautiful site that we are lucky enough to enjoy, belongs to us all, and it is our joint responsibility to keep it in good heart. It is therefore very upsetting to see fly-tipping of allotment waste and other rubbish near the gate to Cattery lane. This behaviour is an offence against all plot holders, and anyone found doing it will lose his/her tenancy. On this same theme, the Committee will be discussing guidelines for considerate and neighbourly cultivation, and anyone with views/ideas on this subject should speak to a committee member.

Our thanks to the Town Council for filling in the potholes.

Membership

It's membership renewal time! You can pay your subs of £5 to any committee member or at the Town Council offices. New members will be very welcome.

Kings Seed Catalogues

Seed catalogues are now available from the Town Council offices for association members. It's a great opportunity to buy top quality seed at hugely reduced prices. We ask that, if possible, you return your seed order by November 4. Through returning the collective orders early, the Association is given an extra discount, which in turn is used to improve the Allotment site or to help fund events.

Allotment Newsletter



Ginhall Lane Allotments March 2012

Our new Logo designed by Jim Pearson. Thank you, Jim.

Flooding

We are doing everything in our power to alleviate the flooding problem on the new site. It is caused by run-off from the housing estate travelling through a drainage pipe under the new site into the field below. It does appear that there is a possible blockage in that field causing water to back up through the pipe. It will be necessary to excavate in that field to determine where the blockage is. This will be done as plant is available.

Rodent Infestation

It is clear that we have a similar problem to other allotment sites with rodents. It has now been investigated by Herefordshire Council Pest Control have suggested a rolling contractual programme which we will be undertaking forthwith. Please do not lay any treatment on your plots yourselves, they will do the control.

The new season

I appreciate that the winter has made it difficult do much work on the site. However, I wish to remind you of your obligations of plot cultivation detailed in your tenancy agreement.

Whilst many plots are being treated to a high standard, it is evident that there is a marked increase in poorly maintained plots. This has a detrimental effect (through weed spread and root invasion) on the plots where allotment holders work so hard to achieve good result. It also detracts from the beautiful environs of the whole allotment site. Pride in our allotment site must be restored, and to this end, a more robust monitoring will commence in April. A monthly site inspection will be made by me (or devolved in my absence) and a nominated plot holder. Guidelines for plot monitoring and cultivation will be available from the Town Council Office.

Weed Control

In an ideal world of allotment gardening, organic principles would be favoured by most of us. The Town Council currently allows the use of proprietary chemical controls. Last year there were complaints by plot holders about some of their neighbours' indiscriminate use of herbicides and pesticides, and, as this seems to be an escalating problem, I intend to review the use of chemicals on the allotment site.

In the meantime, if you must use chemicals, use a proprietary brand, avoid a windy day, avoid your neighbours plot and use to the manufactures' instructions. Please do not dip your watering can into the water butts, if you have used any of these products, as this could possibly contaminate the supply.

Bonfires

There is no bye law against bonfires; however, I would ask you to use common sense. Do not light a fire if the wind direction is towards the housing estate, or when other plot holders may be at risk of inhaling your bonfire smoke. Only burn organic matter, no plastics etc. and when you leave make sure it is safe to do so, **under no circumstances should a fire accelerant such as petrol be used**, this is extremely dangerous to the user and to any one in close proximity.

David Russell Leominster Town Council

News from our Chairperson

Plans are afoot for the new season at Ginhall Lane!

- ◇ • **The new shelter** is now at the quotation stage, and planning and grant applications have been submitted. Comments are invited from plot holders by the end of March.
- ◇ ◇ **It is intended** to plant up the border by the tree bog to give an attractive welcome.
- ◇ ◇ **Plot holders and visitors** are reminded that there is a freshwater tap on the cistern at plot 10, and that there is a First Aid kit in the tree bog.

Calendar of Events 2012

March

14/03/12 at 19.30 Allotment Association meeting at the Town Council Offices. All welcome

May

19/05/12 -13.30 start Regional meeting of NSALG Saturday at the Forbury Chapel. Tea provided.

June

16/05/12 at `19.30 Allotment Association meeting at the Town Council Offices. All welcome.

23/06/12 Allotment Open Day, followed by barbecue.

July

18/07/12 at 19.30 Allotment Association Meeting at the Town Council Offices. All welcome.

August

11/08/12 Annual Flower and Produce Show-Saturday-[start of National Allotments Week]

29/08/12 at 19.30 Annual General Meeting Council Offices. Your chance to shape your Association by standing for office, or proposing or electing others.

September

19/09/12 at 19.30 Allotment Association meeting at the Town Council Offices. All welcome and Seed Swap

October

05/10/12 at 19.00 Harvest Supper and Annual Awards Friday-Forbury-Chapel.

November

14/10/12 at 19.30 Allotment Association meeting at the Town Council Offices. All welcome.

Remember, the success and enjoyment of all these events depend on active participation by plot holders and Association members. We aim to be an inclusive organisation and to represent as many views as possible. The bi-monthly meetings provide a forum for debate as well as decisions, so if you have ideas for projects/events/improvements, please come along and share them.

Happy digging!

Lesley



Ginhall Lane Allotments Autumn 2013

From the Allotment Association

From the Chair

Luckily for all allotment gardeners, this year has seen more clement weather and some decent yields (apart from pea-moth!), so I hope that people are feeling encouraged to strive for even better things in 2014. I certainly am and I am enjoying the benefit of four of the newly created community beds.

Largely thanks to Viv Pearson's efforts we now have the new security gates, also a big thank you to those who helped to distribute the keys. A lot of effort went into devising and producing the handbook, which was given out with the keys and the tenancy agreement, so thanks also to all involved in that project.

June's Open Day was a big success, with Councillor Angela Pendleton officially opening the gates and the day being enlivened by a masterly performance of nursery rhymes by The Pop-up Theatre Company.

The Annual Awards evening will take place at the Forbury Chapel on Friday October 4th at 7pm and all allotment holders/friends/family are warmly invited. The more attendees, the merrier the occasion.

We intend to have a publicity stall at the Apple Fair in the Priory on Saturday October 19th. At present, we have several vacant plots and not waiting list, so we need to encourage any would-be growers who may be out there. Vacant plots mean lost revenue and they also create problems with weeds. Anyone wishing to renew membership of the Allotment Association should contact Ann Purcell on plot 44, or telephone 614054.

Remember to watch the board and notice board for details of coming events and meetings, to which all are warmly welcomed.

National Allotment Society (NAS)

The code to put into access members only site is m5589 password 1261

And Again!!!

BONFIRES

Another plea to all bonfire makers! Please check with neighbouring gardeners before you light up. Recently an allotment holder had to drive home, wheezing all the way, to use an inhaler! The bonfire in question was emitting black acrid smoke from burning plastic---NOT ALLOWED! And the wind was dispersing the smoke over a wide area. The perpetrator did not intend any wrong doing and was unaware that his actions could cause distress. So please let us be more thoughtful about our colleagues and seriously consider others health and safety.

Key Access

If you have not picked you key---please do Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.30

Seed Catalogues

Seed catalogues are ready for collection from the Town Council Office

The Gate

Again and again the gate is left open and unlocked, when you leave please lock it, the security of the site is compromised if it is not locked



LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PLEASE CHECK BLACKBOARD FOR NOTICES AND MESSAGES,
YOU CAN ALSO LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THIS BOARD.

The Town Council has appointed a new Deputy Town Clerk, Heather Harding. She took up this post at the end of January and will be looking after the Allotments and is our contact in the Town Council Office. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings are the times she is available. Email Heather Harding: deputyclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk

For all Leominster Allotment Association members who do not have access to e-mail please note that the minutes and agenda can be seen on request at the Town Council Office, see Heather. We will leave copies of Newsletters in the Offices and onsite at the allotments.

As an Association that is in place to represent all our members' views and needs, we are a committee very much below the required quorum of 8 and certainly most of us who have been working away for a number of years are feeling the pressure of just keeping going, without the support of members. We have at present a record number of 54 subscribed plot holders, more than half of the total tenants, thanks largely to Heather for explaining the benefits of joining. Now we are asking for something from you in return. We would like to bring back Social Activities/Events which have gone by the board in the last couple of years due to lack of support, so a **BIG** and important **ASK** is that if you are enthusiastic about keeping up our 'growing' community at Ginhall Lane Allotments together with all the benefits of membership and affiliation to the National Allotment Society, please step up and offer your help (much needed and appreciated).

Anyone with ideas as to how they could help stop the possible dissolution of the Association next year, there will be an **AGM on 27th August 2014, 7pm** at the Town Council Offices, during which you can ask questions and put forward ideas and offer your help. If you are unable to attend or would like to talk about your proposed ideas and find a role meantime, speak to a committee member (listed below) or leave a message with Heather by phone/email or pop into the office.

There is a serious possibility of the dissolution of the Association next year if insufficient support is not forthcoming. No further grant applications can be made in future without an Association in place.

CLOSE AND LOCK THE GATE:

to prevent theft, unauthorised entry, at any time that you are onsite. All legitimate plot holders have a key and can enter and leave as and when they wish. We have had an invasion of sheep on the site recently, not the first time, so if you value the time, energy and most of all your crops please think and take the time to close the gate it will stop four legged invaders as well the two legged variety from entry. (The sheep farmer and landlord have been informed).

The National Allotment Society (was NSALG) have increased their fees by 25p per member. For this year L.A.A. will absorb this increase and include it in the £5 per annum for Insurance and Affiliation. We now have 54 members to represent and anyone wishing to join can contact a committee member or Heather.

The part of the Probation Service that we have benefitted from is to be privatised and therefore it is most likely that the work provided by U.P.W's will not continue in 2015. They have provided labour onsite for a number of years so we will have to manage without this service when they leave.

The Association Committee members are presently working to provide a communal large wooden shed in the centre of the site, securing planning permission, applied for part funding and have agreement from the Landowners/Landlords for this project. It will give all plot holders a meeting place, to exchange views and news, seeds and plants, a friendly cuppa, shelter from the rain and sun (if we get any, sun that is) a place around

which open days/social events can be centred. Allotment Association meetings can take place here on site more appropriately, at least during the warmer weather months.

PLEASE KEEP OUR SITE CLEAN AND TIDY, take all rubbish, non-compostable materials away from the site. DO NOT DEPOSIT ANYTHING ANYWHERE ON THE SITE in the hope that no-one will notice, there are regular inspections to monitor the whole site as well as individual plots. If you have problems keeping up your plot let Heather know the reasons to see what can be done.

Our Landlords have awarded a new contract for mowing the track ways and the areas apart from plots that they are responsible for and we hope this proves an improvement. Please keep planting/ growing within your plot boundaries so that the mowers do not cut down anything you value.

Following the more intensive rainfall of late years and consequent flooding in the lower area of the site and with changing weather patterns the Town Council's property committee have inspected the site and agreed that an improved drainage system is necessary for the lower track ways. This work will be implemented later in the season to avoid disruption to the growing and gathering season. This solution will, we hope, allow previously flooded plots to be let again and give better drainage further up onsite.

The Awards evening this year will not include any awards as we do not have any judges in place and a decision by the Landlords to get the whole site into a more acceptable state will be priority before judging next year, something to aim for! The evening will be an end of season social celebration at the Forbury in Church Street is on Friday 3rd October when all are invited, details later.

Earlier this year a leaving plot holder donated a good greenhouse which is now in place in the centre of the site and can be used by anyone, no staging in yet and needs a bit of a tidy up, if you use it please respect others, label your produce and leave space for others to use. Please see Ray plot 24 or John Braithwaite plot 61 or 69 to co-ordinate use of greenhouse.

NATURE NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS:

If anyone has any usual or unusual sightings of wildlife, bees, butterflies, birds, moths, frogs, newts, toads, creepy crawlies that they see we would like to include in next newsletter, or note on the blackboard as a matter of interest. Seen so far this year Elephant Hawk Moth, a large pink and green moth that feeds on rose bay willow herb and grape vine plants, blackbirds nesting in rhubarb patch and spotted by a seven-year-old, (not the first to nest in a rhubarb patch), last year a robin's nest in a shed and despite the heat raised four out of five chicks that fledged.

Spotted woodpeckers nesting somewhere in the trees down near the entrance gates, despite trying to locate the nest they seem to be heard and not seen so far! Sorry no prizes for sightings and if you wish to remain anonymous to protect your special observations just let us know and we will not include any information, but if you feel you want to share this include your plot number in your email or phone call to any one listed above.

**The Leominster Allotment Association AGM will be on
Wednesday 27th August at 7pm in the Town Council Offices, all welcome to attend.**

JULY 2014

As of JULY 2014, L.A.A. Committee members are: Lesley Marsh Chair, mini plot holder, Jane Lacey Treasurer, plot 21, John Braithwaite seed secretary, plots 61 & 69, Ann Purcell plot 44A membership secretary (will be standing down at AGM), Viv Pearson, plot 18a email jim-viv@hotmail.co.uk Christine Conlon, Minutes secretary (not a plot holder).

HELP NEEDED:

only 10/15 minutes to keep the flower bed in the first car park tidy and weed free. It has been planted by volunteers with donated plants to provide pollinating insects with food over a long period, therefore benefitting all our crops. So please if you can spare sometime to help keep this bed in good order contact any committee member listed below or let Heather know when you would like to do this job, we can then draw up a rota.

THANK YOU.

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
GINHALL LANE ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER
17 West Street, Leominster. HR6 8EP Tel: 01568 611734 deputyclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk
Summer 2014

Dear Allotment Holder,

GINHALL LANE ALLOTMENTS, LEOMINSTER

Firstly, a big thank you to all the ploholders who have become members of the Leominster Allotment Association this year, and I do hope that you have taken full advantage of the discounts offered at Hinton's store and Phillipots Nursery, as well as of course having the benefit of insurance cover provided on your plot. Your Kings Seeds orders will be taken later in the year by an Allotment Association member. I would encourage you all to support any events that the Association organises, as well as thinking about coming forward as a committee member if you can attend a bi-monthly evening meeting and would like to help in discussing allotment matters, ways of improvement etc. If so, please do come along to the Allotment Association AGM on Wednesday 27th August at 7pm in the Town Council office, 17 West Street.

I am hoping that by now most of you will have placed a small sign showing your plot number somewhere prominently, or are in the process of arranging this. The Town Council requests that this is completed by everyone by the end of this year please.

You may have noticed that a fresh water standpipe has been fitted on the grass verge at the front of the entrance car park, for the use of everyone, and there is now also a fresh water supply at the basin outside the toilet.

To improve the drainage of the central pathway area of the site it is intended to arrange for drainage pipes to be installed during late autumn, so please be patient if this causes some temporary disruption to access and car parking. Notices will be put up in advance when the date for commencement has been decided. This work should alleviate the standing water that has been causing problems in wet winters/springs, and difficulty with access for ploholders.

A First Aid kit is stored inside the toilet cubicle on the wall, for the general use of all ploholders, if needed.

Dog owners – please do not allow your pets to foul the site, without bagging the mess and taking it home with you to dispose of. Please be alert to thieves, and report any suspicious persons to the Town Council, as some crops have been stolen.

Keeping the gate closed at all times should discourage intruders (both animal and human species) and I thank you all for your co-operation with this.

Once the grass mowing of the site has been completed for the year, the internal access gates will be kept locked in order to protect the grass from being churned up by vehicles during the winter months, particularly by heavy vehicles with full trailers. It is intended to have these internal pathway gates opened for access on certain Saturday mornings between 9-12am strictly dependent on weather and ground conditions, as follows, and at no other times. Please therefore arrange for your manure deliveries etc. to coincide with the following Saturday mornings:

22nd November, 13th December, 17th January, 14th February, 7th March, 21st March, 4th April, 25th April.

Please would drivers only park in the two recognised car parks (unless briefly delivering to a plot), and not on the grass verges. If anyone knows of a useful supplier of well-rotted manure that could be delivered, for all ploholders to use, please let me know.

There are still a few vacant plots available, so if you know of anyone who may be interested in taking one, please do ask them to contact the Town Council.

If you change your address or contact details, please would you advise the Town Council.

Best wishes,

Heather Harding Deputy Town Clerk



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LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

www.leominsterallotments.org.uk

As you can see from the website address above, we now have our very own 'live' website. Take a look at the website and enjoy using it for News, What to Do, Calendar, Photos, links to Facebook (and other social media) and lots of other ideas. If you want to contribute and join in, just click Comment or Contact Us. The website also holds all the minutes (dating back from when the allotments started), AGM minutes and other useful documents.

It means that this newsletter will be available online from now on, as well as being distributed as before. Please let us know of any changes to your contact details so that we can continue to keep in touch with you.

To make sure that you know about what size of shed, greenhouse or poly tunnel are permitted on your plot, refer to your tenancy agreement and the Ginhall Lane Allotments Handbook (also on the Documents page of the website), which will give you all the information you need before erecting a shed or structure to ensure it is appropriate.

Here's a reminder about an appeal to help **SHYPP** (supported housing project for young people). **SHYPP** is a good cause that helps young people cook their own food, devise recipes for seasonal vegetables and share their ideas with others in the same situation. We help by passing on any excess produce to them, so please leave produce in shed no 8, Fanny Howden's plot, by Friday so that it can be collected at the weekend and distributed to **SHYPP**.

The Association has decided to have a stall on the **PLANT FAIR** on **MAY 30TH** which takes place on the GRANGE during LEOMINSTER FESTIVAL week. This is to raise funds and awareness of our lovely Allotments and all the benefits of GROWING YOUR OWN. See the poster on site and on the website for more information about this event and give us your much-needed support. There are also plans to have a stall at the Leominster Car Boot Sale – details later.

The **COMMUNITY SHED** is now furnished and waiting for visitors, so please come and see what it looks like. Read the magazines, have a break in it and if your own shed is full of kit, come and sit in our BIG shed. Your key to the gates will unlock the shed as agreed, but please put the lock inside so that it is not lost (it would be very expensive to replace) and lock up when you have finished your visit. The books and magazines have been donated are for all to use so please be responsible and replace them so that others can refer and use this resource. Please don't take them away from the site.

The **KITCHEN SHED** will soon be ready to use, this will have to be kept locked when not in use as there will be a small gas stove for tea/coffee making as well as a mains cold water supply for washing up. Grass has been planted around this area and ideas for the remaining surrounding parts are in progress.

If there is anyone with SEWING SKILLS and ideas could you please make up some bunting to decorate our communal buildings (nothing political - only pretty and/or garden related).

At the time of writing we are advised by Town Council that the **DRAINAGE** scheme is on hold. However, as a possible interim measure, suggestions to dig out a pond and some drainage channels to capture excess water,

has been made and will be discussed when further details are known. This information will go onto the Website.

Our membership fees for the Association remain at £5.00 per person/plot, despite another increase by NAS of 25p (National Allotment Society). The £5 fee covers you for insurance, affiliation to the NAS and the other benefits of discounted seeds from Kings, and discount from Hintons and Philpotts Nursery. For those members who pay their rent by Direct Debit we will be looking into the practicalities of offering the same method of Direct Debit for the Association fees for next year. Please pay as usual to any member of the committee or at the Town Council office.

**WE ALL PERFORM A BIT OF MAGIC EACH GARDENING YEAR –
TAKING A TINY SEED PERHAPS NO BIGGER THAN A PIN HEAD,
PUTTING INTO THE EARTH, WATERING WITH RAIN AND
WATCHING IT TURN INTO SOMETHING TO EAT – HOW GOOD
IS THAT.**

**GOOD GARDENING FOR 2015
WEBSITE: leominsterallotments.org.uk**



LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER

September 2015

Plant Stall – 30th 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 18th 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

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 5th October. The track way will be inaccessible for approximately three weeks, so please park in the 1st 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 gardener's 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)

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
GINHALL LANE ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER
17 West Street, Leominster. HR6 8EP Tel: 01568 611734 deputyclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk

WINTER

December 2015

Dear Allotment Holder,

Thank you again to everyone who has managed to place a small sign showing your plot number somewhere prominently on your plot/s; and to those who have not done so yet, please would you arrange this now as soon as possible.

It really does help in so many ways to have all plots numbered up visibly.

The mains water supply to the tanks has been turned off for the winter, and the 3 internal gates have been locked, to avoid damage to the grass pathways.

At last the drainage improvements to the central pathway between the two car parks have been completed. This should make a tremendous difference, and avoid having to access to plots through puddles in future.

It is hoped that a large composting bin, in 3 compartments, for communal use will be constructed shortly on one of the empty plots on the right, beyond the second car park. This should assist everyone to keep their plots clear and clean, and provide a valuable source of rotted down compost in due course.

Whilst on the topic of tidiness, it is apparent that on some plots there is quite an accumulation of unwanted materials, which really should be removed; such items as, large stores of wood, plastic, wire meshing, unwanted frames etc. etc. Would everyone please endeavour to remove these down to the household waste collection site, and help us to maintain tidy allotments. If any assistance is needed in this respect, please let me know, and I'm sure that some help could be arranged. There are several plots which contain young trees which have self-seeded and are wild, and will eventually grow far too large for the site.

If you would all please take a thorough look around your plots, even right along the boundary fences (internal and external), and remove any saplings such as Ash, Damson, Hazel etc. which have not been cultivated, completely before the spring. If you have planted any of these varieties, then please be aware that they must be controlled to grow no higher than 9 feet tall (3 metres maximum); as per the terms of your Agreement, and not interfere with neighbouring plots.

If moles are still a problem on your plot, there are a couple of mole traps which can be loaned out to you if you wish; just contact the office and enquire.

WEEDS – again this year there have been several plots where tall weeds have been allowed to grow, and the winds have blown their seeds around the whole site. This is particularly a nuisance to neighbouring plots, and not very socially responsible. Please do make sure that you cut down offending weeds before they go to seed next year.

There may be the opportunity via a local tree worker to have deliveries of wood chippings from time to time to the site. The advice is that these chippings should not be added growing areas for at least a month, to allow the tannin to be first be released; but it is OK to use immediately on pathways.

It is noted that several areas of plot fencing/gates are damaged/loose/bent. Would ploholders please attend to these issues over the winter months, and carry out any essential repairs. Again, if any assistance is needed, please contact the Town Council. May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Heather Harding



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LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

10th Anniversary of Ginhall Lane Allotment Site

Together with the Town Council we are considering how best to celebrate a decade of allotments in Ginhall Lane. There will probably be a donation from the Town Council to mark this special milestone. Do you have any thoughts or ideas about it? If so, please see any committee member or leave a note in the Community Shed.

Harvest Supper and Awards

A report on the evening was given in the November 2015 minutes. Grange Court was a splendid venue, enjoyed by all and we can confirm that this year's date is **7th October 2016** at Grange Court.

Forthcoming Events

Wine Tasting at Grange Court, Thursday 4th February, 6 - 8pm – for Leominster in Bloom A chance to taste a selection of fine quality French wines kindly provided by Morrisons and deliciously described, by connoisseur Reverend Michael Kneen. There will be cheese, biscuits and olives plus a chance to win prizes from a boozy raffle. Tickets are £10 - available from the Tourist Information Office, Corn Square. All proceeds to Leominster in Bloom, who brighten our Town with flowers every year.

Hereford Seed Swap, Saturday 6th February, 11 – 3pm –The Courtyard Foyer, Hereford

This annual event is really worth a visit whether you are a beginner or an experienced gardener. It's a great opportunity to swap seeds (many of which are unusual or heritage varieties), plants or ideas. Don't worry if you have no swaps, you can still choose seeds and offer a small donation. Then, at 1.30pm there will be a talk by Adam Alexander "Seed Saving Made Simple - and the seedy stories behind my collection".

There will be stalls and children's activities as well as a Tool Sharpening Service (don't forget to bring them with you) and "Tools for Self Reliance" a charity, will be selling refurbished tools and collecting unwanted ones.

Refreshments are available at the Courtyard and entry is free.

Re-greening Leominster, Thursday 11th February 5 – 7pm at Grange Court – a discussion with tea and cake

A call to gardeners of Leominster who have just a little time to give to our Town.

Leominster has some beautiful areas around the Town which have developed due to both time and money given by generous individuals and businesses. Sadly, without maintenance some areas are falling into decline.

We have some dedicated volunteer gardeners who are making a difference (8 from the allotments!) but we need more. With a bigger network of volunteers, we could support each other and share resources.

Some of our green spaces and garden areas include: Millennium Woods, Millennium Green (between the Priory Cemetery and Railway line), Sydonia and Nutgrove, the Railway Station, Community Hospital, and Ginhall Green.

If you are already involved or would like to be involved in the future with such projects, you are most welcome to come along and share thoughts about how we may work together to make it happen.

□ **The Edible Garden show. Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, 11-13th March**

From plot holders to windowsill growers, there's enough inspiration, innovation and information for everybody. Here's the website link: <http://theediblegardenshow.co.uk>

□ **Plant and Produce Stall on the Grange, Saturday 28th May - Leominster Festival**

We have again been invited to have an allotment stall on the first Saturday of the Festival. We hope to have seedlings and plants - the more unusual the better - as well as pies, cakes and preserves to sell. Although Spring seems an age away, time flies and planning starts now, so we ask that when you are seed sowing please consider sowing a few extra for the stall. We did very well last year helping with funds for the allotment site. Freshly picked rhubarb sold out quickly and we would like more for this year please.

Orders for Seeds

On the subject of seeds, a THANK YOU to John Braithwaite for organising seed catalogues orders and deliveries for our members (a benefit of joining the Association).

A Garden Club for Leominster?

In recent weeks a few gardeners, some of whom have allotments, have expressed an interest in re-establishing a Garden Club for Leominster. It is about six years since the Town had a gardening club which for many years was a thriving and successful venture.

As with any society, group or club there needs to be a committee to organise it and, just as important, like-minded people to support it by becoming members, which will enable speakers and a venue to be afforded.

So please give it some thought and watch this space and notice boards for any future developments.

Happy gardening - and here's to a sunny and successful 2016!
(Cathy Fewlass)

From the Chair Lesley Marsh

Two things at the moment are a cause for concern, and they require the co-operation of all plotholders.

□ **Firstly, the issue of security.** All too often the gate is left unlocked when there is no-one on the site. This is an open invitation to criminals to enter the site and to steal valuable property and/or cause damage. If you are the last to leave, you must lock the gate - failure to do so puts everyone at risk of theft and vandalism.

□ **Secondly, DOGS.** Bringing dogs onto the allotment site is a privilege and not a right. There is evidence of persistent fouling, and this will not be tolerated. All allotment holders are asked to be vigilant, and to take note of anyone seen to be failing to pick up after their dog. The incident should be reported with names to the Deputy Town clerk or to a member of the committee. Appropriate action will be taken.

And finally, a footnote to say how disappointed we all are that Geoff Brooks, an exemplary gardener, is leaving the allotments. His plot has been both productively and immaculately kept for all the time he has been a tenant.

Our Website: www.leominsterallotments.org.uk



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LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER MAY 2016 FROM THE LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

At long last it seems that Spring has finally arrived and we can all look forward to another successful and productive growing season.

A warm welcome to our new tenants. We hope you will enjoy gardening with us on this lovely allotment site.

The L.A.A. would also like to welcome our new personnel at the Town Council who will support our Town Clerk, Paul Russell. Liz Womak is the Office Manager and with Lena Dhansjo, Office Assistant, they will be our first point of contact for allotment queries/problems and rental payments.

Julie Debbage is our Environmental Supervisor and will be monitoring the allotment plots and the perimeter of the site.

Allotment Composting

You may have noticed (pretty hard to miss!) the rather unsightly area next to the field on which three large composting bays have been erected.

This is the beginning of a composting system sited on this area because due to poor drainage it is considered unsuitable for cultivation. It will be available for use by allotment gardeners and the environmental team, but **PLEASE DO NOT USE UNTIL INSTRUCTED**. The site is still in the planning stage and part of its success depends upon the management of green and brown waste, turning the compost and distribution of the finished product.

Julie Debbage will be assessing and determining the best way forward for this site and hopefully she will be attending the next allotment meeting, so if you are interested and/or have questions and views, please come along.

Compost Workshop

Thank you to those who came along to this informative session which was held on the Community Site on 23rd April. A total of 19 people, 14 of whom were allotment gardeners, attended a most useful and interesting talk. Many of us already compost our garden and food waste, but probably, without exception, we all learned something new. The addition of tea and cake was a bonus enjoyed by all.

Community space update

Firstly, a huge thank you to the few people who contribute to the maintenance of this communal space. Don't be shy in offering your support. We could do with a little help and enthusiasm in order to justify the Town Council's generosity in giving us this community asset.

Ray has been amazing in practically rebuilding the shed. The roof has leaked twice (hence the new roof), the walls were "see through" in places and Ray has now lined all the walls. In addition, he has erected guttering and attached a rain butt. Plus, he mows and maintains the lawn.

The shed will require painting inside and out before all the gardening books, magazines and information folders will be readily available once more for the benefit of everyone.

The flower border is in the process of being planted up and the fruit bed is developing. Lesley has now produced a rota, one copy on the notice board, another in the shed. So, if you can spare a little time, please do.

The mini plots are to have the corrugated iron replaced with wooden boards, as they are deemed a to pose a risk, the edges being very sharp where protective tubing has deteriorated.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS & DIARY DATES

Wednesday 13th July, 7pm – Allotment meeting at the Town Council offices.

Saturday 23rd July, 3pm – B.B.Q. on allotment Community Site to celebrate 10th Anniversary of allotments.

Saturday 6th August – Regional meeting of West Midlands National Allotment Society, Grange Court.

Wednesday 24th August, 7pm – Leominster Allotment AGM, venue TBC.

More details will be displayed on the allotment notice board and website.

..... And now a word from our Town Council

We would like to introduce the newest members of our team here at the Town Council Offices. Liz Womack and Lena Dahnsjo are based at 17 West Street and will be managing the day-to-day administration of the allotment leases.

Julie Debbage is our new Environmental Supervisor and she will be working closely with the Allotment Association on issues involving site maintenance. We look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months.

For all enquiries regarding allotment payments, contracts or gate keys, please email admin@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01568 611734.

We are currently reviewing our allotment records, to ensure that all of the contact details that we have on file are as up-to-date as possible. If you have changed any of your contact details in the last 12 months, then please do let us know so that we can ensure that all correspondence is sent to the right place. We are increasingly

looking to move as much of our communication as possible to email, to reduce postage costs and redirect these funds into front line services. If you have an email address, we would ask that you contact us at admin@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk so that we can add your details to our records. We would also encourage as many people as possible to sign up to receive electronic news updates via the Leominster Town Council website.

Now that spring has well and truly arrived, routine site inspections will be taking place at the beginning of every month. This is in order to ensure that weeds don't get out of control and that the allotments remain a safe and pleasant space for everyone to enjoy. If at any point you are experiencing difficulties managing your plot, then please get in touch with a member of the Town Council team, or one of the Allotment Association Committee members.

We wish you all a very happy summer of gardening!