

Leominster Allotment Association Newsletter – May 2021

Dear plot holders,

I think that we have all really appreciated the Allotment Site being open for use while many places have been closed because of Covid restrictions. Hopefully there will be a return to a more normal way of life and the opportunity for a social event during the summer.

- **Vacant plots.** There are 2 vacant plots.
- **Number of people on waiting list for plots.** 29 people are on the waiting list.
- **Former recycling area.** This has now been cleared and the aim is to have plots with raised beds to make the allotment site more inclusive for people with mobility issues.
- **When can the compost loo be reopened?**
The intention is to reopen this facility in the near future, once there have been measures put in place to ensure that Covid guidelines have been addressed.
- **The progress in researching the possibility of a toilet for the disabled?**
A suggestion regarding a type that doesn't require connecting to mains was looked at and the Projects and Grants Officer will be asked to investigate funding.
- **New Notice board for Allotment site.** A larger board that will be more fit for purpose will be installed. There have been a couple of suggestions for where this could be situated, including by the main gate because all use this for access. However, the preferred option is on the Community Shed as there is plenty of room to safely read the notice board and it is felt that a Community Area is the appropriate place for sharing community news.
- **Appointment of a new Environmental Services Officer.** The person who holds this post helps manage the Allotment site for the Town Council. This vacancy will be filled as soon as a suitable applicant is appointed and is able to commence employment, allowing for the fact that they may have to give notice to their current employer.
- **Partnership with Leominster in Bloom.** Many people will have appreciated all the effort that L.I.B volunteers have put into creating lovely floral displays to enhance our town. L.I.B is supporting The Meeting Place and Echo Priory to plant the Priory Car Park with a variety of vegetables and flowers. If any plot holders have spare seedlings or plants they could donate for this cause then I am sure they would be much appreciated. In order to do this please contact: 01568 612047 or 07803350631
- **The Allotments will be taking part in Leominster In Bloom, "It's Your Neighbourhood".** Two assessors will be at the allotments at eleven on Saturday July 3rd to look around and meet with the Chairperson, Kay West, to discuss the allotment site aims and achievements. We should all be very proud of our wonderful allotment site. All the time and effort that people put into their plots and in assisting others deserves recognition. The assessors have asked for any photos that show how plots have developed over a period of time as they will only see what there is on the day of their visit and numerous plots have been and are being transformed in the interim period. Details for sending any photos will be given nearer the time.
- **Plant Fayre Saturday May 22nd.** Leominster Allotment Association will have a stall at the Plant Fayre. Donations of plants and seedlings for this event would be welcome, as would any volunteers to help on the stall. Donations can be left in the Community Garden, by the greenhouse, for collection on Friday or taken to the stall at the Grange on Saturday morning.

- **Leominster Allotment Association A.G.M.** This has been **postponed** and will now take place on the evening of July 7th to enable people to attend in person, following proposed changes to COVID-19 guidelines on 21st of June. More information to be given nearer the time. **All plot holders are welcome to attend.** The purpose of the A.G.M. is to: review the finances by looking at the Treasurers Report of income and outgoings; report on developments from the last A.G.M.; and to elect committee members for 2021-2022. New members are always very welcome as they can offer fresh ideas, which are always much appreciated.
- **Concerns or problems regarding the allotment site.** Please contact Julie Debbage via the town council website contact form **or 07554070820**. Issues can only be resolved if they are made known to the Town Council, who are responsible for managing this site.
- **Payment of Allotment Association Membership.** L.A.A. fees can be paid with the allotment rent, please ensure that this is stated clearly when payment is made. Having L.A.A. membership is beneficial as it provides insurance cover should you have an injury while working on your plot. It also means that you can order Kings seeds, for a very reasonable price, through Leominster Allotment Association. Cost of membership is £7.50 which is good value for money in the opinion of L.A.A. Committee members.
- **The Community Garden.** The Greenhouse alongside the sheds in the Community Garden is available for those who wish to grow seeds and protect the seedlings from late frosts. It would be lovely to see this facility being put to good use rather than standing empty. At the moment, only one plot holder is making use of this facility and there are also vegetable seeds growing on in readiness to plant in the Community Garden. The area cleared of weeds and many rampant raspberry bushes will be used to grow some herbs such as chives and angelica, and it also has a small strawberry bed. The remaining limited space will be used to grow a small selection of vegetables. How productive this will be is questionable as very little compost has been added to this soil as yet! The flower bed also contains some herbs: sage, rosemary, oregano and thyme. Different varieties of flowers or plants will be used to fill in gaps between the established perennials. Grass has now been put around the pond to stop soil running off and this area is still being developed. Perhaps there will be frog spawn in the pond next Spring!
- **Allotment Association Magazines are free** and currently available for people to take from the Community Greenhouse. They have inspiring and informative articles and tips.

Proposed meetings and Future events subject to Covid 19 situation

A.G.M. - Wednesday 7th July

Meeting – Wednesday 8th September

Harvest Supper - Friday 8th October

Meeting - Wednesday 3rd November

No doubt we are all looking forward to happier times ahead with the arrival of Spring, the start of a new growing season, and being lucky enough to continue enjoying our Allotment site.

From L.A.A. Committee