Alers Road Leisure Gardens – July 2017

Welcome – Summer is really here! But we've had rain too – so less watering!!

Committee – The Committee works on your behalf to ensure the site is properly managed so we all have a great experience. The Minutes of all Committee meetings are published on the site notice board and on the Website. Do read them and let us have any comments. The dates of the Committee meetings are shown at the foot of the Minutes, and any plotholder can attend at 10.30 for 'Open Access' where you can bring any matter to the Committee's attention.

Water Supply – Water is our biggest expense, we pay about £1,500 a year in water bills. Please collect as much as you can from the sky. Do you have a shed with no gutter or water butts? We have a supply of gutter and fittings, so get to work and collect that free water.

Website – Our Website has been complimented by many who access it. It is a tool that shows potential plotholders all the different aspects of the site and encourages them to consider taking a plot. It is also a great means of communication and information. Recently added is a section that allows you to view what you should be doing at any particular time of year. Just search for Alers Road or go direct using:

www.alersroadallotments.org

Email – We are trying very hard to move into the 21st Century by offering to send communications to plotholders by email. You may have received this Newsletter by email? By using email we can reduce our costs considerably, and make the distribution easier. If you have received a paper copy, and would like to receive by email in future please let us know at '**arlga@belleisa.co.uk**' and we'll add you to the electronic list. If you did receive this by email, but would still prefer a paper copy, again please let us know so we can change our records.

Machinery – Our machinery consists of most items that a plotholder may want to use on site. Committee members have access to the machinery, and all we ask is that you make a donation for the petrol and strimmer line used. You can ask on spec for the machinery to be available, or pre-arrange. Please treat all items with respect and they will be available for others.

Site Maintenance – There are many jobs that need doing around the site and we are lucky that we have a nucleus of willing helpers. Everyone can do their bit by keeping the area around your plot tidy, the areas adjacent to the fairways and your paths. This makes a big difference to the amount of work needed by the team, and keeps the site looking in tip-top condition.

Fruit Press – The crusher and press are available for use along with the other equipment required, so get those apples, grapes or whatever collected and make some juice/cider. We will be happy to show you how it works and we have a number of demi-johns available free to a good home if anyone is interested.

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First Aid – We have a First Aid kit available for plotholders to use. It is located in the toilet, and if you find anything is running low please let me know and I'll replenish it.

Site Log Book – Also in the toilet is the Site Log Book. It's important that all 'incidents' are recorded so we can get an overall picture if anything untoward is happening. Please complete the entry with your name and plot number.

Security – Some time ago we installed PIR activated cameras and floodlights as a deterrent to 'unwelcome' guests. I'm very pleased to say that over the past few years we have been free of any incidents that are detrimental to the site and plotholders. However, we can all do out bit by making sure the gate is shut and locked. As they used to say 'You know it makes sense!'

Ruxley in Bloom – Last year we again won best Allotment Site. This year the competition has been revamped as 'Ruxley in Bloom', being organised by Ruxley Manor. The scope has been extended from Bexley Borough to anywhere within 15 miles of Ruxley so potentially more competition The judging has already taken place, so I do hope you've all kept your plots tidy!

Toilet – Our toilet is a great asset to the site. On occasions it's not treated with the respect it deserves. Mandy's volunteers have to clean it regularly, and I can tell you from experience that some people leave it in a disgusting condition. Also can I please implore you:

Do not put anti-bac wipes or blue towel in the toilet – use the bin provided

Construction – If you're thinking of making repairs to your shed or compost heap, etc.? Or building something from scratch? We have plenty of screws, nails and some fittings in our machinery store. So don't go to B&Q, come to us where we will try to find anything you need.

Bexleyheath Horticultural Society – Do support the shop on site, dedicated volunteers work there each Sunday and the 'Boys' are always available to unload new stock – all for your benefit. See our special offers on wire netting, bubble wrap and blue netting as well as all your normal requirements.

Finally – We lost a plotholder of nearly 30 years recently as Keith Stubbings died suddenly. Derrick and I attended the funeral and the Association made a donation in his memory. Our sympathy goes to his wife Brenda and the rest of the family.

I hope you all have a good growing season and

Don't forget the Show – Saturday 2nd September.