

Join the gardeners living the good life

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Gardeners looking for an allotment can sign up to manage a plot at the Weston Avenue Allotment site.

There are a number of vacant plots at the site, with a short waiting list, and the cost for an allotment currently works out at just more than £1 a month.

Some of the plots are a bit neglected so need more time than others, and the gardeners already there are a mix of old hands and newer allotment holders, who spend varying amounts of time at the site.

Jean, Linda and Steve took on a neglected plot and were able to clear space to grow fresh vegetables to eat in their first year.

Jean was at her plot every other day for the first nine months to get it into shape and



Keri has had her allotment for seven years



Rudi works on his allotment



Allotment association chairman Simon digging in

now can keep the weeds at bay and the food coming through with only four hours a week.

Linda has had her plot for four years and is just beginning to bring the final patch into production.

In her first year Linda was spending two to three hours a day at Weston Avenue for three or four days a week.

Old hand Keri – with her daughter, partner and neighbour – have been enjoying the fruits of their labours for seven years. As a three-year-old, her daughter learnt the delights of eating strawberries fresh from the strawberry patch. Now she is 10 and able to help a bit more.

Rudi and his partner both have jobs with fixed hours which means they get to enjoy their allotment for one to two hours each week.

This has been enough time for them to keep the grass under control as well as nurturing their strawberry plants and getting this season's plants in and growing.



The results of Steve's labours



Hard work gets results for Steve

Rudi said that running the allotment has cost them very little due to the generosity of other allotment holders, who were happy to pass on their excess young plants.

Retired people also enjoy the challenge of an overgrown plot.

Steve has had his plot for four years now and, weather permitting, he is normally at the site every day, although now he has much more time for chatting with and helping other allotment holders than he did in the early days.

Thanks to the generosity of the Leighton-Linslade Town Council and the work put in by many of the allotment holders, the site has had a community

shed for the last couple of years, and a composting toilet since August 2016.

There is still work being done to improve the site and the chairman of the Leighton Linslade Allotment Association, Simon, has been working hard on the installation of running water into the shed.

Anyone interested in taking on an allotment should contact Clive McMellon, at The White House on 01525 631920.



Jean's plot after 18 months



Linda's plot

COMMUNITY NEWS

Visit Weston Avenue Allotments for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning



Ella with cucumber



Hazel with butternut

Your chance to dig in with green-fingered gardeners

There are two opportunities to visit Leighton Buzzard's allotments and chat to allotment holders this week, when Linslade Allotment Association joins in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Everyone is invited to have a look around at the Weston Avenue allotments and enjoy a cuppa and some cake for a small donation from 10.30am to 1pm on Friday and from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday.

During Saturday's event, the allotment holders will also be officially opening their community shed, named Louis' Place after allotment cat Louis, who sadly died at Easter, and a plaque will be unveiled.

There are still a few vacant plots at Weston Avenue, for anyone interest-



Nyah looks pleased



Charlotte digs deep



Becca and Mikey



Elijah with mum Denise

ed in growing their own. Now is a great time to start on an allotment, as you will have time to get on with digging to clear

some space for the crops you can plant next year.

Over the winter, the cold weather will keep the weeds at bay a little and help

to break down the soil to a good condition for you to begin work in earnest in about March.

If you're lucky, you might be allocated a plot where the previous occupant has left a tree or two, or even a fruit bush, to start you off.

The Weston Avenue Allotments are tucked away in a quiet corner of Leighton Buzzard, next to Pages Field.

And at this time of year, the allotments are a hive of activity as gardeners are well into

their harvest. Although the summer has not brought the continuous sunshine many of us would have liked, it has been a great year for those growing their own food.

A visit found young and old enjoying the fruits of their labours – quite literally, in some cases.

Elijah and sister Nyah were busy digging potatoes.

Their mum and dad, Nelson and Denise, have been allotment holders since April 2016 and enjoy being able to

come and work on their plot with the children, knowing they are safe to play a game or two at the site when not working hard.

Young Charlotte is pictured working the soil for grandad Pete, who is delighted with his runner bean and carrot harvest this year.

Jim has to make sure Charlotte is not left alone with the runner beans, as she is inclined to eat them raw from the basket.

Jim's dog Crunchie doesn't

wait to be offered a runner bean when down at the plot.

If it is within reach, she just helps herself.

Anyone wishing to apply for a plot on the allotments should contact Clive McMelon at Leighton-Linslade Town Council, The White House, Hockliffe Road.

Call 01525 631920.

For more information contact chair@llaa.org.uk or secretary@llaa.org.uk or find Leighton Linslade Allotment Association on Facebook.

