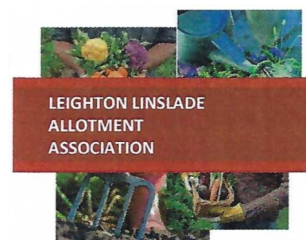


# Information for All Plot Holders at Alwins Field & Weston Avenue Allotments (Issue 2, January 2021)



## ...The Chair's Scribble...



So the shortest day has been and gone, the Spring Equinox 2021 in Northern Hemisphere will be Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 09:37 and it can't get here any sooner!

As we persevere through yet another lockdown in these cold, dark and WET days just stay well; all of you.

For now,



## You Hold The Key



Did you know that your key for the main gate at Weston Avenue opens other 'doors'? Although access to the toilet and Louis' Place is prohibited at present due to COVID restrictions and precautions, it provides access to: -

the wheelbarrows near the main gate,  
the composting toilet,  
Louis' Place and  
the car park barrier

However, please remember that when we are able to use the toilet and/or Louis' Place, please leave both as you would wish to find them and remember to lock up. The wheelbarrows should be returned to the gate immediately after use. Finally if your vehicle is locked in the car park feel free to unlock the barrier but do lock it again after exiting.

## LLAA Benefits - Public Liability Insurance

The LLAA has renewed its public liability insurance at a cost of £83.64. Cover is for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 and is provided by Ecclesiastical.

Individual ploholders public liability insurance is provided as part of full LLAA members membership of the National Allotment Association.

Details of the cover can be found [by clicking here](#). (Summary attached for newsletters distributed in hardcopy)

## More Payment Options



Have you been frustrated that you've only been able to pay for LLAA membership and seed orders by cash or cheque?

Well we have now added a bank transfer option. We have moved our account to NatWest which will hopefully make life easier for members, our Treasurer Phil Jones and Seed Secretary Avril Marshall. We've some new processes to work up but hopefully we'll have something in place for September 2021.

## Growing Tips

We'll be adding more links on our Growing Tips page on our website giving you links to other sites that carry tips. Those links are duplicated below. If you have any others that you find useful then please let us know. Also, don't forget many of your fellow plot holders are happy to chat and pass on tips and advice as well.

[National Allotment Society \(NAS\) Growing Advice](#)

[Royal Horticultural Society \(RHS\) Grow Your Own](#)

[Garden Focused](#)

[Thompson Morgan Gardening Guides](#)

[Growveg](#)

## Leek Pests



If you are planning to grow leeks or anything else in the onion group, it's a good idea to plan now how you are going to deal with the pesky leek miner fly and leek moth which are rampaging through the allotments. There isn't much available except for very fine mesh combined with good crop rotation, or as garden writer Alys Fowler says, eating mini leeks! Here is some more information: [Allium leaf miner / RHS Gardening](#)

## Contact the LLAA

If you want to speak to a committee member on site then this is where to find us: -

Barnaby Adams WA 48A	Peter Bate WA 77A	
Matt Bateman AF 2B	Janice & Stephen Bennett WA 92B	
Paul Frost WA 88A	Phil Jones WA 27B	Gill King AF 22
Avril & Simon Marshall WA 90A	Mark McGarvie WA 27A	
Charlotte Roberts AF 2B	Rob Salisbury WA 50A	

Or email: - [membership@llaa.org.uk](mailto:membership@llaa.org.uk)

## **What Does Belonging To The LLAA Do For Me???????**

Obviously a fair question posed by current and potential members. Well firstly a reminder that full LLAA membership currently costs £5.00 per annum. Where does this go?

Well £3.00 of it is your National Allotment Society (NAS) membership. What benefits do you get for this? Straight away you get individual public liability insurance (as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter) and access to the discounted seed scheme where each year many members save more than their £5.00 LLAA membership fee. I did (see Newsletter Issue 1)



But it doesn't stop there! On the NAS website (<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/>) you'll find lots of information on allotments, growing advice, monthly jobs etc. all of which is available to members and non members. However as a NAS member you can access much more via the Members Area using the login and password on the rear of your LLAA membership card. Probably the most useful part for individuals are the ALG (Allotment & Leisure Gardner) Magazines and leaflets. The magazine has loads of information and articles as well as many advertisements and discounts. If you've not had a look at all of this already it's worth investigating.

So after the above, that leaves £2.00 for the LLAA. In the past, the LLAA has secured grants from the Town Council to help provide communal facilities such as communal sheds and machinery. They also provided the composting toilets. However all of these facilities have to be run and maintained by the LLAA. Therefore things like toilet paper, napkins, soap, cleaning fluids and equipment are all sourced and funded by the LLAA. Likewise communal buildings have to be maintained and repaired so timber treatment, paint, roofing felt, timber etc. is sourced and purchased.

Then there is the communal equipment and machinery that requires oil and fuel and servicing and repair.

We have not spent as much as usual on the above in 2020/21 due to COVID but previously normal expenditure on supplies and repairs etc. has been in the region of £200+.

The LLAA needs to secure public liability insurance to cover the communal areas and events that we may hold. As mentioned earlier, this year it cost £83.64.

The LLAA also liaise with the Town Council on site issues. It also organises working parties to carry out clearing and maintenance work as well as events, albeit not recently due to the restrictions. Just to confirm, all of the committee members are volunteers and give their time freely.

We do our best to try and secure other benefits like discounts at local garden centres and stores, unfortunately no discounts are currently active but two of our committee members are actively pursuing such benefits, so hopefully watch this space.

Hopefully you can see your membership does produce many benefits for you as an individual and the allotments community and we thank you for your continued support. If you have any suggestions for improvements you'd like to see or would like to become involved in community events then please do let a committee member know. It is a great social community.

## **News from The White House**



Plotolders and allotment communities are diverse but there is a common identity that transcends class and income barriers; a shared relationship with growing things. Please contact the Town Council directly if you have lost or need a new key, concerns about a neighbouring plotholder or just have a question. Whilst the White House is currently closed officers from the grounds team are still working daily and appointments for collecting a new key can be arranged.

## **Bonfires**

In the last newsletter we mentioned its best to avoid having a bonfire. One reason to avoid them in the winter is many plots are covered in sheeting to aid weed control. One of our allotmenteers has found their sheets covered in hundreds of tiny holes caused by the embers of a bonfire. So please avoid bonfires if possible.

## **Security Incidents**

We've been made aware of a number of incidents over the winter. Some chairs were pinched from a plot on Weston Avenue and machinery was pinched from the Wyngates site in Linslade. Thankfully, apparently the thieves at Wyngates were disturbed before they were able to load all the rotorvators they'd lined up. These incidents are a reminder to protect your items as best you can.

