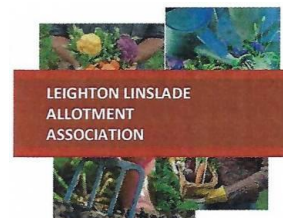


Information for All Plot Holders at Alwins Field & Weston Avenue Allotments (Issue 3 May 2021)



...The Chair's Scribble...

Welcome to our May 2021 Newsletter, even in these strange times we have so much going on that we've had to go to three pages for this edition. I hope you find the content of interest.



Waterbutts

Posters have been on the gates at both sites for a while and it's now your last chance to apply for a **FREE** Waterbutt. The closing date for applications is Monday June 7th. Go to the [LLAA website](#) for more information and to register your interest in one. Delivery will be to the sites at a date to be confirmed.

Selco Builders Merchants

The LLAA now has a Trade Card with Selco, although they are not a Garden Centre, they do offer materials many of us need from time to time. Compost, all manner of wood for frames or sheds and guttering to mention a few. Plus, if you order £100.00 of goods, they will deliver to site for free. The LLAA will be placing its next order towards the end of June, if you would like materials from Selco we are happy to pool orders together so it can come to site. All money will need to be paid into the LLAA bank account prior to order. For more details on this e-mail chair@llaa.org.uk.

As Selco is a Trade Builder's Merchant all prices in store are ex. VAT, so remember 20% will be added at checkout. The website lists ex. and inc. VAT prices.

Go to their website at: <https://www.selcobw.com> or visit the local store at Selco Milton Keynes, Denbigh Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK1 1DF, not too far from the Asda Superstore and Ikea in MK

If you would like to take advantage of the Trade prices and shop in store you will need the LLAA Trade card. We plan to add this info to this year's Membership cards (September) in the meantime please contact me at chair@llaa.org.uk to arrange to have the card, it will need to be returned.

Obviously there are many suppliers of the items shown in the comparison below and you may want to research some of these. However, for illustrative purposes, I did a quick online comparison of some items with Homebase and this is what I found as of 21 May 2021:

Item	Selco		Homebase	
Compost	70 litre Westland Multipurpose compost	£5.99	See notes below.	
Feather Edge boards – (Sheds)	Treated Green Feather Edge Fence Board 125 x 22mm x 1.8m FSC	£1.98	Feather Edge 11mm x 125mm x 1.8m Green - Pack 8	£18.95 (£2.37 each)
Guttering	Black Half Round Gutter 112mm x 2m	£5.27	Black Polypipe Half Round Gutter 112mm x2m	£6.00
	Black Half Round 68mm Pipe Bracket 2 Screw Black	£0.90	Black Polypipe Round Downpipe Bracket - 68mm	£2.00
	Black Half Round Support Bracket Single Screw 112mm	£0.95	Black Polypipe Half Round Gutter Fascia Bracket Three Screw 112mm	£2.00
	Black Round Downpipe 68mm x 2.5m (Also comes in 2m, 4m or 5m lengths)	£5.39	Polypipe Round Downpipe - 68mm x 2.5m (Only sell 2.5m lengths)	£9.00
Decking	Grooved Treated Deck Board 4.8m x 125mm x 38mm	£18.95 (3.29/m)	Value Deck Board 2.4m x 120mm x 24mm	£7.95 (£3.31/m)

Notes:- **Compost** - This is 20-30 litres more than the usual sellers, at around the same or less cost than the 40-50 litre bags they offer.

Guttering - Homebase don't sell a single screw half round fascia bracket.

Most sheds are 6ft (183cm high). Your shed isn't going to need the 2m or 2.5m of down pipe sold anywhere, so if a number of plot holders want down pipe to a waterbutt, one down pipe @ 2 meters would probably do for 4 or 5 people. You'll need about 50cm off your gutter run to the collection unit.

Decking - Selco's decking board is thicker and slightly wider than the Homebase version.

Happy researching - Paul Frost - Chairperson

In case of Emergency **999 or 112**

We sincerely hope none of us ever need this but if you need to contact emergency services from either site the following location references can be provided to them.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Post Code</u>	<u>what3words</u>
Alwins Field	LU7 2UF	confining. havens. overdue
Weston Avenue	LU7 4JT	paying. buyers. pots

When callers struggle to describe their location, what3words helps them say exactly where they are , saving precious time.

Please Dispose Of Rubbish Respectfully



We all know there is plenty of waste produced on our plots. Those with green fingers have lots of leaves, stalks and stems from fine produce and flowers most of which can be composted. However none of us can avoid the weeds, many of which you wouldn't want to compost . Whatever your rubbish, please try to avoid burning it and certainly don't throw it over boundaries. Please take it home and dispose of appropriately.

AF Toilet, Orchard & Mower

There's a lot of ongoing activity at Alwins Field. The LLAA has purchased wood stain for the toilet, grass seed for the orchard and repaired the site lawn mower. The toilet has benefited from a number of coats of wood stain in order to preserve it. It just needs a final coat here and there, it's certainly looking better than when the work started.

During the winter the new community orchard was dug over and the grass seed has been sown using a shady seed mix as there is a large tree shading the back half of site. It's good to see early signs of grass coming through. Bulbs planted around the fruit trees have come up and there are now two borders – a herb border and a bee-friendly border.

Comfrey on the site has been moved to the edge next to the playing field. A line of stakes near the back delineates the “truly wild” area which we have left for wildlife.

We've had a few problems with the performance of the mower which necessitated some repairs but hopefully it's now in full working order and ready for action.

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped with all the activities and we'll certainly welcome other volunteers during the coming months as we tackle other projects.



Fingers Crossed, No More Legs Crossed Hopefully as lockdown eases we will soon be able to open up the communal facilities on the sites including the all important toilets. As mentioned elsewhere the AF toilet has had a wood stain coat. The WA toilet has been repainted internally and the roof wood stained. At the moment the plan is to reopen these facilities when the lockdown is fully eased, planned in June, but we'll continue to keep an eye on Government and National Allotment Society advice.



Welcome To New Plot Holders

If you've just taken on a plot then a very warm welcome to Alwins Field & Weston Avenue Allotments. Hopefully you've already made some acquaintances on site and found people to be friendly and helpful.

You may have been approached by a LLAA member and have been made aware of the benefits of joining the Association. If we've not had a chance to talk to you yet then please seek us out. a list of committee members is to the right.

However, in the meantime, if you want to be reminded of the benefits, or made aware of them for the first time, you can find some details in our Jan/Feb newsletter on our website. You can access it [here](#).

Your LLAA Committee Members Are:-

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 23B
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 23B
Rob Salisbury	WA 50A

Or email: - membership@llaa.org.uk

Thank You Thank You



The LLAA Committee which to express their sincere thanks to the allotmenters who provide their expertise and time free of charge to undertake servicing, repairs, site maintenance, auditing and such like. These fantastic people often don't want public recognition or payment but we do want to express our thanks, you know who you are. **THANK YOU!**

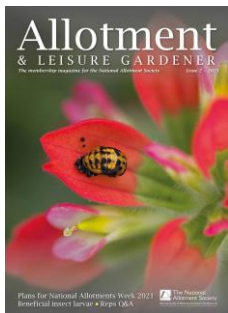
If you have skills you think could benefit your site then please mention this to a committee member. This can range from specific expert skills to mowing and/or weeding communal areas.

Post Lockdown Events



We really hope we will be allowed to hold community events over the summer. Certainly the last BBQ at Weston Avenue was a great success and hopefully we'll be able to do something similar again soon. If we organise something before the next newsletter then we'll let you know by other means.

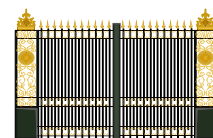
NAS Allotment & Leisure Gardener Magazine



A reminder that LLAA members can view the quarterly NAS magazines on the [NAS website](#) in the members area.

The login and password are on the rear of your LLAA membership card. Issue 2 - 2021 is just out in hardcopy and an electronic copy is now on the NAS website.

Shiny New Gates



Plot holders at Alwins Field & Weston Avenue will have noticed the Town Council have installed a set of new main gates on each site. The new gates are an improvement on the old ones in that at WA the gate posts are now flush with the adjoining boundary fences while at AF, they extend further down to the ground so there is less gap under them. Both sets have security spikes on top of them. The old gates seemed to need constant adjustment as they were prone to dropping causing them to stick. Time will tell if the new gates are an improvement in that respect.

Funding From Town Council

Thank you to Leighton Linslade Town Council for providing funding to carry out a number of community projects on the two sites. Projects include: -

- Ply board for interior of Louis Place at WA.
- Sealant, guttering, pathway edge board for exterior of Louis Place
- Board for raised beds at WA toilet
- Paint & sandpaper for WA toilet. (Sandpaper is not replacement toilet roll)
- Wood preserve for AF toilet

Some of the above projects are already underway but look out for chances to get involved in working parties to complete the outstanding projects and others.

Swap Shop

Ordered too many seeds? Grown too many plants? Been successful and got too much produce? Got spare bean canes?

We have a Facebook page where LLAA members can either look to swap or give away surplus seeds, plants or other gardening items.

Have a look at [Leighton Linslade Allotment Association - Seed Swap](#) page and request to join.

Please note the page is only available to LLAA members.

Weston Avenue Trolley

Unfortunately the trolley has suffered a wheel breakage again. We are repairing it once more but this time with more sturdy wheels so fingers crossed this will sort the issue once and for all. It's such a useful item that one more go at repair is worth it.

Benefits of Joining the LLAA

Just a final reminder of the benefits of joining the LLAA. Our previous issue of the Newsletter included some details which you can access at

<http://www.llaa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/LLAA-Newsletter-Issue-2-2021.pdf>

Please also have a look at our [website](#) and [Facebook pages](#) for more information.



<http://www.llaa.org.uk/>



[Leighton Linslade Allotment Association Group](#)