

THE GARDENS

Learmonth Gardens Association Newsletter
www.learmonth-gardens.org.uk

May 2024

**THIS NEWSLETTER HAS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS.
IF YOU ARE A TENANT, PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR LANDLORD.**

FORMAL NOTICE OF AGM

The **AGM** will be held in the **Gardens** on **Sunday 26 May 2024** at **4.00pm**.

Items to be discussed include:

- Financial report • Gardens update • Tree update •

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The bluebells and rhododendrons are in full flower in the Gardens and it's time for our AGM.

This past year, three new trees have been planted, gate locks have been fixed, the Committee retendered the maintenance contract for the next five years and we hosted some lovely social events in the Gardens.

The AGM is set for **Sunday 26 May at 4pm in the Gardens**. Please come along and say hello.

If you are new to the area, welcome to Learmonth Gardens. We are always looking for new members to join the Committee and help maintain the Gardens. If you would like to volunteer and get to know your neighbours, please contact the Chair or any Committee member.

Nick, Chair

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who paid their subscription on time last year and to those who made up on past missed payments. It takes a lot of neighbour volunteer time to chase late subscriptions, time which we would much rather spend maintaining the Gardens.

If you are a landlord, please arrange to pay the Gardens subscription directly to assist in timely payments.

Please check your records and contact treasurer@learmonth-gardens.org.uk if you think you may have overlooked payment last year.

It is important to ensure annual subscriptions are paid on time for us to maintain the Gardens to a high standard.

See www.learmonth-gardens.org.uk/subscriptions.html

Hamish, Treasurer

SUBSCRIPTIONS – Legal obligation

As mentioned at last year's AGM, we retendered for the Gardens maintenance contract. To cover the increased costs in maintaining the Gardens, proposed subscriptions are **£160 Early Bird** and **£180 Standard rate**.

The Gardens are owned collectively. All in **1-19 Learmonth Gardens, 1-23 South Learmonth Gardens, 12 Learmonth Gardens Lane and 1A Learmonth Place** are owners and have a legal obligation to maintain the Gardens.

All subscriptions are **payable by 31 August 2024**. The Early Bird discount applies before 31 July. For anyone moving, the owner of the property on 31 August is liable for the full amount.

The **online subscription form** will be available after the AGM. Please use this form to update your contact details. Once updated, you'll receive LGA bank details.

Please set up an electronic bank transfer and include your name and address in the payment details e.g. ROCHE 9/2 SLG. Using the online form and electronic bank transfer minimises the admin overhead.

See www.learmonth-gardens.org.uk/subscriptions.html

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gardens AGM:	26 May 2024, 4pm
Early Bird rate ends:	31 July 2024
All subscriptions due:	31 August 2024
Gardens Picnic:	9 June from 2pm
Volunteer work party:	July tbc
Hallowe'en Party	tbc

GARDENS MAINTENANCE UPDATE

We went out to tender for the Gardens' maintenance at the end of last year. Several contractors were approached, three expressed interested and two provided quotations. After the interviews, Blackhall Gardens Services were awarded the five-year contract from 2024 to 2029.

We will continue to focus on managing the Gardens to create an attractive, peaceful space for all residents to enjoy and to follow a sustainable maintenance strategy that supports the diversity of plants and wildlife.

VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY

A huge thank you to those who help in the Gardens by tidying leaf and twig litter, watering trees, maintaining the planting on the slopes, and keeping the benches clean and in good repair.

We are planning on having a volunteer work party in July – so get your trowels out! This involves a friendly bunch of residents getting together to do a couple of hours of gardening, followed by some well-earned refreshments.

Everyone is welcome and if you would like to help, please email maintenance@learmonth-gardens.org.uk

BARBEQUES, BALL GAMES AND GUIDELINES

Now that the warmer(?) months are approaching, please note that we have two designated stone-slab barbeque areas on the walls – one opposite Learmonth Place and the other opposite 13 Learmonth Gardens. Please don't put barbeques on the grass, paths or tree stumps.

'The Gardens are not suitable for games played by adults and older children – these are prohibited because of the potential for damage to shrubs and trees, cars, etc. that might result. All ball games involving a 'hard' ball – including football, bat-and-ball, tennis, cricket – are not allowed. All ball games played by younger children – involving only soft balls – should be monitored by responsible adults.'

We are fortunate to have two acres of beautiful mature woodland gardens on our doorstep for all to enjoy. Please respect the trees, shrubberies and your fellow neighbours.

Please review the [Gardens Guidelines](#).

WILDLIFE AND TREES UPDATE

All the trees in the Gardens are protected by a Tree Preservation Order and any work requires planning permission.

Last year's annual tree survey recommended removal of a Wild Cherry, the Weeping Willow and a Whitebeam. This has now been implemented, and three new trees have been planted: a Sessile Oak, a Swedish Whitebeam (opposite No. 15LG) and a Royal Burgundy Cherry, which has had beautiful blossom this year.

We are also closely monitoring the other Cherries as they have very sparse crowns. We will mulch these trees and the other new trees later this month.

We will leave the new Beech by Comely Bank Avenue, which was badly ring-barked by hungry squirrel kits in 2022, for another year. Although this tree is unlikely to survive, it has leaves on the lower branches, so we are going to give it another chance!

The Common-Spotted Orchids are going to start emerging in our wildflower meadow soon. Last year we had 24! As normal, the orchids will be clearly marked with sticks, so please avoid them. The range of wildflowers has increased dramatically since we started managing the western side for wildlife, providing a huge boost to pollinators, birds and mammals.

JUST MOVED IN?

Welcome to Learmonth Gardens! For guidance on using our Gardens, please see the FAQs on www.learmonth-gardens.org.uk/faq

LGA COMMITTEE 2024/2025

Chair: Nick Roche 9 SLG chair@learmonth-gardens.org.uk
Secretary: Pat & Alan Walkingshaw 10SLG secretary@learmonth-gardens.org.uk
Treasurer: Hamish McCall-Smith 18LG treasurer@learmonth-gardens.org.uk
Maintenance: Angela Yates maintenance@learmonth-gardens.org.uk

John & Fiona Gailey 16 LG • Andy & Chrissy Moore 1A LP • Kasey McCall-Smith 18 LG •
Annie Millar 3 LG • Phil Pinder 2 SLG