

June Newsletter



What amazing weather! My plot has produced amazing asparagus and now peas, broad beans, lettuce, new potatoes, beets and globe artichokes are cropping

well amongst lots of other stuff. It has been good to see some rain!

The 2017 committee comprises - Chair Wendy Skinner Smith, Treasurer John Lardner, Minutes Secretary Nick Jackson and new Committee Members, Janet Woodman and Roy Leach. We met at the end of May as required by our constitution and using your suggestions from our April meetings we planned for the year

Minutes of the 2017 April AGM and ALM meetings are on the web site.

Talks and visits for 2017

Several associations and other bodies have already let me know details of their **Allotment Open Days** and other notified events are here and on the web site.

Saturday 15 July, 11.00 -12.30

Bee and Flower walk

Milham Ford Nature Park

Judy Webb and Oxford Friends of the Earth have partnered to organise a 'bees and flowers' walk at Milham Ford Nature Park, taking place on This free educational walk, led by Judy, will focus on looking at which flowers different types of bees (and other pollinators) are using and explaining the features of each flower. Following the walk, there will be an opportunity to collect Yellow Rattle wildflower seed to use in gardens or wildlife areas.

Sunday 16th July 2 – 5pm

Barracks Lane Allotments

Association Summer Open Day

* Produce Stall

* Cake Stall & Refreshments

* **Competitions**

* **Find out more about having an allotment**

* **Guided tours of the site & Forest School**

* **Bee Keeping Talk**

19 August 2017

Invitation to Elder Stubbs Festival and Vegetable Show.

Entry form for Elder Stubbs Vegetable Show

The Elder Stubbs Vegetable Show Saturday 19th August 2017 Elder Stubbs Allotment Site Rymers Lane, Oxford OX4 3JZ

Gates Open at 12 pm.

PRODUCE SHOW TO BE JUDGED BY Mr. John Purves & Mr. Mike Kent

Entry Fee 25p. per Exhibit

At the **September ALM meeting** we will be

- reporting and ratifying the OCC grant awards and ask that
- asking members to sign up to a rota where **one allotment site a month will be open** to visitors...
- ask that each association tries to make a **short video of their site** that we could put on the web site
- This would contribute to our **centenary celebrations** in 2019.
- **Oxfordshire Payback Scheme** - We will be asking Diane Major who manages this to give a short **15min talk to the Sept. ALM**
- **We will be asking Chris Bird of Sparsholt College** to do a talk for us in November on Companion Planting. Date to be confirmed. We hope this will be held in the West Oxford Community Centre. We agreed at the last meeting to try other venues which were cheaper and accessible.
- **Your association should have received the Zurich insurance info for 2017**
- **OCC Grant Form**

There is no ODFAA competition this year. There is an Elder Stubbs competition that all allotment members can enter. Details are in the link. For the ODFAA competition to start this again we will need a couple of people to join the committee who are willing to pick up the competition paperwork and organisation. We have a folder of information.

On June 28th I attended
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
BRIEFING MEETING - PREPARING FOR THE
CONSULTATION ON THE PREFERRED
OPTIONS FOR THE OXFORD LOCAL PLAN
2016-2036

This was for Residents' and Community organisations in Oxford to take part in an important briefing meeting at the Town Hall at 5.30 to 7.30 pm on Wednesday evening, 28 June.

This was an early opportunity to learn from Oxford City Council about the consultation on the preferred options for the City's Local Plan for 2016 to 2036, before the formal launch of the eight-week public consultation on 30 June. Oxford Civic Society acted as an independent facilitator for the meeting.

It was intended to help local organisations respond effectively to the consultation by explaining the key features of the consultation paper to those who will be responsible for coordinating their organisations' responses.

The Local Plan is important because it will shape how Oxford develops. It will set out how we want our city to look and feel; it will guide new developments to the right locations while protecting and improving the

environment and people's quality of life; it will deliver the new homes, businesses, jobs, shops and infrastructure needed to support the growth of Oxford over the next 20 years; and it will be used in determining planning applications and to guide investment decisions across the city.

I extracted the following general statement re allotments and a large map!

“The Plan will focus on ensuring that green spaces are as high-quality and as multi-functional as possible, with public access particularly valued, as well as ensuring a network of green spaces with connecting wildlife corridors and green accessible routes. 16 → In addition to specific protections for sites with strong biodiversity value, allotments, and open air sports facilities, the Plan will look to protect open spaces for their Green Infrastructure value, either because they are part of a green network or because they are well-used spaces offering a variety of opportunities and benefits.”

DO look out for events after June 30th. there are lots of them.

There will be the really big document online and in libraries and smaller ones which contain the preferred options

2017-2018 Dates and meetings

May 26th OCC Grant forms out to associations before end of May

14 -20th August is National Allotments Week

August 7th 2017 Grant Applications must be received at OCC Parks

Aug 15th Tues 15.30 to 16.30 OCC / O&DFAA Fed Committee

September 26th Allotment Liaison meeting 7pm for 7.15pm

November O&DFAA Talk TBA

Dec 5th Tues 15.30 to 16.30 OCC /Fed Committee

- **2018:**

Jan 23rd Tues Allotment Liaison meeting 7pm for 7.15pm

March 13th Tues 15.30 to 16.30OCC / O&DFAA Fed Committee

April 10th Tues 6.30pm -7pm O&DFAA AGM /7.15pm Allotment Liaison meeting

Our centenary Year is 2019 as the first meeting of ODFAA was in August 1919. Here is the first page of our records. We are beginning to plan for this and welcome all suggestions.

ODFAA History

Oxford Federation of Allotment Associations		District Allotment Associations	
1919	Received from the Lands Cultivation Committee	£ 12 - -	
Rec ^d	from Secretary (Osbourne) Fees	19 - -	
1920	Jan. 26 Received from Mr. Chapman	19 - -	
	Groom	17 15 -	
	Lance	1 11 -	
	Pritchard	2 8 -	
	Biggs	11 3 -	
	East Oxford Allot.	11 - -	
	Axtell H.H.	26 3 -	
	Townsend J.H.	22 2 -	
	Linton H.H.	11 3 -	
	6 Q Treasury Notes	£ - -	
	8 10p (Interest)	21 - -	
	28 Received from Secretary	218 16 -	

This beautifully scripted first page begins the account book from 1919 to 1968. Sadly, there are no minutes from this time, although the purchase of a minute book is recorded in 1928. The first secretary was G Osbourne. There is no indication whose hand this is but presumably it was the treasurer's?

*The issue of urban allotments was politically and socially important before the end of the 19th C. The nurturing of plants wherever space allowed - was a popular pastime among the urban working classes; while middle class social reformers saw the provision of allotments as a form of 'rational recreation' for their social inferiors, infinitely preferable to the alternative attractions of gambling or drink. The **1887 Allotment Act** was passed - somewhat half-heartedly - enabling (but not compelling) authorities to make provision for smallholdings and allotments. The pressure was now for provision in the cities and this was often taken up by private bodies wanting to establish sites with varying success. Parliament eventually responded to this growing urban demand by passing the **Small Holdings and Allotments Act in 1908**, consolidating earlier legislation and boosting the provision of allotments in urban areas. The First World War proved the catalyst in allotment provision, and in particularly the U-boat war in the Atlantic Ocean, which, by cutting Britain's food supplies from overseas, gave urgency to maximising home food production. In late 1916 the new Lloyd George Government made the 1917 **Cultivation of Lands Order**, empowering allotment authorities in urban areas to seize land for allotment uses. During the early years of the twentieth century many new residents moved into towns and cities for work and developed a large number of flourishing clubs and societies, including allotment societies. Being a member of an allotment society offered opportunities to network, both on and off-site, through events such as (lectures) dinners, concerts and charitable giving.*

In August 1919 ODFAA starts with a grant from the 'Lands Cultivation Committee' in 1919 of £12 and its registry number 3092 F 418 as a Friendly Society with 10 named members paying fees. These are mostly listed by name rather than association and include Gillman, Chapman, Groom, Lance, Pritchard, Biggs, Axtell, Townsend, and Linton along with East Oxford Allotments.

1920 £10 is received from the Allotments Committee Corporation on along with £5 for Seed and 19s for fees. The Lands Cultivation committees pays another £15 and it seems there is a deposit account of £400 paying an interest of £4.2s.10d. The expenditure includes £42 to Pickford's Ltd, and Two payments to the Agricultural Wholesale society of £374 8s 10d and £15.17s 4d. A rubber stamp is purchased for 3s 3d and Hall the printer is paid 12s. The accounts are examined and signed off by John

Agroom and Bayliss FSAA. In the second half of 1920 the handwriting changes to a less flourishing script and payments are received for seed potatoes. Payments are made for printing notices and lecture, for AOS Affiliation fees and to Pickford's Ltd, this time with a note that this is for Transport and delivery of potatoes. There is also a refund from LNWR for 3 lost bags and carriage. Potatoes again maybe? This order seemed to be a major activity of the Federation? They had a balance of £452.16s 10d earlier in 1920 but transfers of £150 and 15 from the deposit account and more payments for seed potatoes reduces this to £204.17s 10d.

1921 there are no receipts nor expenditure. This page few entries is examined by Bayliss and found to compare with the pass book. £10.12s remains.

1922 to 1924 there were no fees paid in entries but a bank balance of £5 15s and 9d is repeated and sustained being reduced only by a payment of 7s and 2d for postages by the Secretary and Treasurer. The Chairman, J Carter signs the accounts.

1925 has a payment of 5s for sacks and 2s from the Hollywell Allotments for W Saunders. The Oxford Chronicle Co is paid £1.12s and postage again accounts for 8s 5d leaving a balance of £5.15s7d. This is examined and compared with Pass book by CE Bowen

1926 There is a list of 4 members, Osney St Thomas and New Botley, St Clements, Port Meadow and Cripley (no Meadow in the name in those days) paid a total of 17shillings in affiliation fees. ODFAA received a Grant of £10 from the City Education Committee towards lectures. Expenditure is listed as £6.6s to Mr Heaton for lectures, £2.5s to Oxonian Press, 12s for advertising and 7s 9d for postage. FG Saunders signs off the accounts on October 26. The balance is now 14.12s 2d.

1927 A grant from the City Education Committee for gardening lectures is repeated and there is a sale of sacks for 3s. The lectures by Mr Heaton cost £6.6s with printing and advertising accounting for £2.14s.6d. Postage is up to 9s 4p and the balance is £5 4s 7d signed off by FJ Saunders. There are no receipts for fees?

1928 The grant and expenditure is continued for the lectures with the addition of the hire of a trestle table to for demonstrating. A wreath for the late GCC Chaundry is bought by J Mattrik 15s and a minute book is purchased for 1s 6d. What a shame this does not survive. We do learn that the chair is called Frank J Saunders.

1929 The grant and lecture pattern remains with trees being bought for demonstration for 13s 9d and the postage costs increased to 18s

1930 Grant income sustained along with fee from Cowley and Headington Allotments of 1s and 3s making an income of £13.17s 3d. The expenditure of £13 17s 3d included a grant to the Church Army Labour Home of 14s.

We have lots more info like this with the original 1919 finance book and a later minutes book. It is very patchy with big holes bit but it stretches across the hundred years and occupies 6 x A4 box files! If we have a member with the skills and some time to make this mass into a short written record that would be a great centenary celebration. I have started a few times but as you can see I neither have the skills nor the time. Do be in touch if you could help.

Good gardening to all

Wendy Skinner Smith, ODFAA Chair