

The New Committee met on 8.05 2014

## **2014 Officers and Committee members**

**Chair** Wendy Skinner Smith /Annual reports, newsletters, web site, joint chair ALM

**Vice Chair** Ian Sheppard OCC/ODFAA competition

**Secretary** Richard Barrett Minutes of AGM, ALM, FED Com meetings

**Treasurer** John Lardner / Finance, insurance, databases

Tim Treacher / OCC/ODFAA competition

Welcome and thanks to New committee members, Jon Piggott, Caroline Duffy and John Hastings.

## **OCC/ODFAA City Allotment competition**

**We have already had some entries. OCC apologise for the late sending of this paperwork so if you still want to enter please contact Jennie.**

Final entry date for O&DFAA /OCC Competition was May 16th but Jennie will take late entries as the material was later arriving.

Entries and queries to Jennie Rudman

[dean.rudman@btinternet.com](mailto:dean.rudman@btinternet.com)

c/o 67 Donnington Bridge Road Oxford OX4 4BA

## **Treasurer/insurance**

Please contact **John Lardner** queries

Thanks for membership fees. Only a couple of sites forgot the new regulations or experienced problems with paperwork and were a bit late for the renewal date (May 7<sup>th</sup>). They had a few days without insurance but we now seem to be back on track. Out of the 35 active association in OCC 32 are presently members of O&DFAA and benefit from our Public liability and Employer Liability insurance which protects committees and trustees. Richard Barrett managed to unearth the original 2002 OCC paperwork for when this was started.

[2002 insurance letter setting up insurance.pdf](#)

## **Database**

Please send any new committee/trustee information to John Lardner

- Please remember database electronic information is shared with OCC and O&DFAA committee members

- It is published as one hard copy at the meetings for updating.

- This applies to our contact /membership info and Site facilities sheet

## **Plan for 2014**

- **A Gardener's Question Time** Evening Your plot queries answered. This will be open to all plot holders so please advertise to your members when we send the poster later in the year. With over 250 years of gardening experience between us we think we might be able to answer a few and as requested we hope to have a key note speaker who can then help with questions and answers. This will probably be a Tues or Thursday later in November.

- **Site visits.** So far ODFAA has organised site



visits to Eden Drive, Cutteslowe, Barton Fields and Cripsey Meadow. The next one is to Spragglesea Mead and Dean's Ham. Date will be attached asap

- **Training** We continue to explore and use meetings to discuss issues for secretaries, treasurers, chairs, trustees, field secretaries. This is to clarify their roles/jobs and discuss problems and solutions. At the last meeting

we agreed to publish on line one associations draft job descriptions for committees. As agreed at the last meeting committee members are asked to discuss and add to this and we will work on developing a manual next year so that new committees and members have a starting point **if** they need one.

#### • **Committee member descriptors**

At the last meeting committee members were asked to think about developing job descriptions that we could build into a handbook of information if committee members had to manage a site without the benefit of a handover of information. I have attached South Wards drafts. Many thanks to Dave Allen for letting us use these as a starting point. ODFAA members have already mentioned they would like to see descriptors for Field Secretary and Trustees. We know that often jobs are broken down to suit the strengths of individuals so it may be you chose to have a list of jobs and assign them. The treasurer role and budget setting as a process linked to thr rent review will be our focus in last half of the September meeting.

[Starting points for some job descriptors](#)

#### **AGM and ALM**

[Draft minutes for O&DFAA's AGM April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014](#) ALM agreed the focus and timetable for **Grants (see red dates) The focus is inclusive access and signage. Ian will send out grant papers before the end of May.**

#### **Rent review**

Is progressing well. If you were not at the AGM or ALM ODFAA members present unanimously supported the present 'without prejudice' proposal from OCC and thanked ODFGAA for their considerable work in negotiating a fair amount that took account of previous anomalies and set a fairer rent per hectare across the city. The indicative figures are being adjusted for flood discounts and it is likely OCC will be ready to issue offers to associations in line with our agreed timetable.

#### **Dates for 2014/2015**

*April 22 Tues 6-7 pm O&DFAA AGM /7.30 Allotment Liaison meeting*  
*May 6<sup>th</sup> ODFAA com planning meeting 7pm.*  
*May 16<sup>th</sup> Allotment Competition entries in*  
*May 30<sup>th</sup> Grant forms should have arrived to associations*  
*Monday June 9 & Thursday June 12 First plot Competition Judging*  
*Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August Grant Applications must be received by OCC*  
*Aug 20 Weds 8.30am OCC /Fed Committee Grant applications discussed*  
*Sep 23 Tues Allotment Liaison meeting 7 for 7.30pm*  
*Sept 4<sup>th</sup> and Sept 5<sup>th</sup> Thurs & Fri Second plot Competition judging/Site judging*  
*Decisions on the final allocation of grants will be ratified by members at Sept meeting*  
*October O&DFAA members insurance renewal certificates circulated*  
*October 30<sup>th</sup> Grant funds will have been sent to associations*  
*November GQT will be booked asap*  
*Dec 9 Tues 8.30am OCC /Fed Committee*  
*2015 Jan 20 Tues Allotment Liaison meeting 7pm for 7.30pm*  
*March 10 Weds 8.30am OCC /Fed Committee*  
*April 21 Tues 6-7 pm O&DFAA AGM /7.30 Allotment Liaison meeting*

*Please let us know of any **allotment open days** so that we can publish these to all allotment associations. **Cripley Meadow Open Day August 10<sup>th</sup>** This is the last day of National Allotment Week*

#### **Security Alert**

We heard from the Oxford Mail that Elder Stubbs suffered damage to a number of sheds and greenhouses recently. The Oxford mail contacted us to ask about security but the report was very limited .Here are some reminders [vandalism and security](#)

#### **Trading and Manure sources**

Please let us know if you have trading on site and on good and reliable manure sources, bagged or raw. We will publish information on these if these are available to plot holders on other sites.

*All the best Wendy Skinner Smith*

*Result of E petition re allotments* The e-petition 'Tell Eric Pickles that allotments must not be sold off!' signed by you recently reached 18,821 signatures and a response has been made to it. As this e-petition has received more than 10 000 signatures, the relevant Government department have provided the following response: An e-petition has been suggesting that the Department for Communities and Local Government is examining plans to remove council duties to provide allotments. This is completely untrue and has no basis in fact. In 2011, the Government compiled a list of statutory duties that councils must follow, but Ministers made very clear to Parliament there were no plans to change any of the duties on allotments

(<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110524/text/110524w0008.htm#1105257001663>).

**Local authorities continue to have a specific responsibility for the management and provision of allotments in their area, ensuring those who want to start an allotment can do so. There are no plans to change this, and the e-petition's claims are simply false. In January 2014, the Department published Allotment Disposal Guidance: Safeguards and alternatives (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/allotment-disposal-guidance-safeguards-and-alternatives>), replacing the previous guidance from 2002.**

**The new guidance strengthens allotment protection, as the requirement for waiting lists to be taken into account must now be rigorously applied to all that council's waiting lists, not just the waiting list for the site to be disposed of. This aims to ensure that poorly maintained sites are not used to justify disposal.**

The Government has introduced a range of measures to help communities who want land to grow fruit and vegetables. Through new community rights, local residents have increased opportunities to protect existing allotments from development and increase provision of green spaces. For example, in Thame, in Oxfordshire, their new neighbourhood plan will create an additional hectare of allotment land. Allotments have also been listed as **assets of community value**. As part of our commitment to supporting local community groups, the Department has also published a best practice guide for community groups wanting to find land to grow fruit and vegetables

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/space-for-food-growing-a-guide>) and an additional guide on establishing community orchards and other spaces for food growing

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-orchards-a-how-to-guide>). This e-petition remains open to signatures and will be considered for debate by the Backbench Business Committee should it pass the 100 000 signature threshold.

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/>

