

Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations

Founded 1919

working together for oxford allotments

Officers Chair Wendy Skinner Smith 48 Helen Road OX2 0DE wendy@wendyskinnersmith.co.uk (Cripley Meadow)
Vice Chair Ian Sheppard 3 Cutteslowe Park Cottages, Cutteslowe, OX2 8ES, shep0204@hotmail.com **Secretary**
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John Lardner 8 Snowden Mede, Headington, OX3 7TQ, johnlardner@hotmail.com (Eden Drive Headington)
Committee members Tim Treacher 51 Western Road OX1 4LF treachers@phonecoop.coop (Spragglesea Mead and Dean's Ham) John Hastings 44 Maple Avenue OX51HN johnhastings@gmail.com (Cowmead) Jon Piggott 67 Stratford Street OX41SP jonpi2011@gmail.com (Faircares) Caroline Duffy 37 Ridgeway Road OX38DT carolinedgardens@btinternet.com (Barton Fields)

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

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 7th). 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 Cripley 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 for them 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 22nd 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 6th ODFAA com planning meeting 7pm.
May 16th Allotment Competition entries in
May 30th Grant forms should have arrived to associations
Monday June 9 & Thursday June 12 First plot Competition Judging
Monday 11th 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 4th and Sept 5th 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 30th 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 10th** 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

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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/cm201011/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/>