

O&DFAA January Newsletter



O&DFAA is the main way allotment sites across the city work together. There is an open **web site** where committee members and plot holders can catch up with allotment information. Go to

www.ODFAA.com

You should have already had the agenda and papers for the next ALM meeting on Tues 20th. Parks circulate these, mostly by email... Papers and agenda are also on the web site.

ODFAA is hosting BBC Gardener's Question Time on March 9th at Wolfson College at 5.30

Apologies there was an error in the subject line of the email. 5 Tickets will be available for associations at our meeting on January 20th It is 5 in the first instance as we have to make them available to the public. Do check back after the 27th if you need more. We have already had some applications. If associations wish to buy their allocation of 5 on that evening they should bring a cheque made out to ODFAA. It is £22.50 for 5. These are non-returnable and Associations will be responsible for putting up posters, which we hope will be available at the meeting and for informing their members.



In November we held a small local ODFAA [GQT] This was in the Town Hall on Tuesday 25th November at 7.30pm and open to any allotment holders in Oxford to come along and ask a question about a horticultural issue that they would like to be given



some advice about. It was a chance for plotholders to meet those from other sites, and share ideas.

We had a visiting speaker this year, Steve Brookes who is well known by two of the city allotment sites. His talk focussed on many of the items featured in his book "The Greatest Gardening Tips in the World"- which was on sale. It makes for a good read with some tips I have never heard before. Here is the table of household stuff with gardening uses. All agreed it was a very entertaining and useful evening with the added bonus of lots of free seeds available at the end.

City Allotment Competition

The competition award evening was held in the Town Hall on October 30th. Photos of all the presentations and plots are on the ODFAA web site. As usual all entrants were invited and every association was invited to see a slide show of all the participating members and sites. Many appreciate being able to share their experiences and knowledge and the participants go back to their associations rewarded pass on good practice



John Alcock, our invited presenter shared some snippets from times past when allotment rules were very different. For e.g. "all tenants could only work plots after their day's work" Mike Kent focussed on companion planting and flowers as a means of encouraging



biodiversity and healthy vegetables and asked us all to be brave about trying out new things.



Eden Drive Allotment Association won the highly coveted Alderman Knight Shield for the best site.



David Porter of John Garne Way won the Challenge Shield.

David has won an award for many years but this was the one he always wanted.



Congratulations to Rob and Louise Bruce from Cripsey Meadow who won the trophy for the 35 to 59 class. Rob and Louise's plots were underwater from December to March but still managed to make excellent progress with cultivation and crops



Our next meeting will discuss ways we might develop the

competition.

All the best and see you on the Tues. 20th
Wendy Skinner Smith ODFAA Chair