

2019 May ODFAA NEWSLETTER

- **Lease/License** Draft lease in progress with ODFAA and OCC aiming to find a meeting time in June. ODFAA is meeting with OCC on July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> where we hope to draft wording for new sections of the lease. ODFAA is looking for clarification in the :
  - proposal for handling trees and ditches in writing ; how the uplift will be used to cover tree (+ ditch) maintenance and the terms of the service provided ;
  - Assignment of assets, insurance (both liability and insuring assigned assets);
  - A demise statement and reversion clauses.
  - Clarification of the roles and distinction between 'allotments management' and 'service provision'. The Associations manage the allotments sites (clearing plots, maintaining the assets e.g. water provision, roads and paths etc.) and have members and subscriptions. OCC provides Associations with services (e.g. insurance, tree management, administering site rent income, provision of allotment grants).

### **Tree Management:**

- Some Associations have taken the initiative and surveyed their own trees. We already know that the scheme will be H&S driven one.
- OCC should either share tree surveys or undertake new surveys as a start of the proposed tree management rolling programme. Document also needs to state what they propose to do and when they propose to do it as part of a management rolling programme.

### **Insurance and Assignment of Assets:**

- Asset Condition Surveys prior to assignment – OCC doesn't feel the need to undertake them. We need to make sure we don't take on future problems (e.g. Association sheds with asbestos-concrete roofs).
- Need to make the distinction between Asset Condition Surveys and the Site Condition Surveys (the site audits we are asking the Associations to complete and return to ODFAA (NOT YET ALL IN!))
- Insurance comes out of site rents. If insurance is to be no longer arranged via OCC, then the site rents need to be reduced by an equivalent amount.
- Zurich is being more helpful in terms of considering asset insurance. We are waiting to hear back from them so we have an example to share with other Associations and explore other providers. JL is collecting in quotes.
- May need the future lease/license needs to stipulate that Associations must provide adequate insurance to cover those assets. See Barnet document on insurance cover.
- Document needs to contain a number of 'what-ifs' regarding insurance. Are we certain that Insurance companies will provide insurance cover for assigned assets when previous enquiries suggest that assets need to be 'owned' by Associations to be covered? Could end up paying for cover that we can't claim on.

### **ODFAA Insurance returns:**

- Average 10 pole plot fee to members is presently £32. A few discounts remain.
- No. of plots needing clearing is negligible ..apart from Court Place Farm where reclamation is starting.
- We need to clarify association shed origins – e.g. is it an OCC asset?
- We need to know how many Associations are looking at insuring sheds and/or equipment
- Possibly ask for reporting on theft, vandalism etc. stats
- It was agreed that ODFAA may need legal advice at some stage of the lease development process –

We need to discuss with OCC the benefits of **licenses vs leases** (latter clearer and firmer) and **review the allotment charter and OCC rules... including advice on Chickens**

## Centenary events and plans. We are awaiting more associations plans for open events mid-august so that we can advertise associations centenary celebration plans.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Phil Baker showed Grenoble visitors around Pullens Lane and we exchanged seeds.

**May 10<sup>th</sup> Tree planting.** It was a twin celebration of twinning on May 10<sup>th</sup> as trees were simultaneously planted in both Oxford and the French city of Grenoble to celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning and ODFAAs centenary. The crab apple tree was carefully put in the ground of the Restore plots of Elder Stubbs allotments, by former city council leader Bob Price



and Wendy Skinner Smith, Chair of the ODFAA. It will provide spring blossom and colourful autumn leaves, as well as fruit that can be made into jelly. It was planted to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the two cities being linked. It also honoured the centenary of the creation of the Oxford and District Federation of Allotment

Associations, ODFAA. Gardeners in Oxford and from the Poterne Gardens in Grenoble decided that planting a tree would be an appropriate way to mark the two anniversaries.

There was good coverage in the Oxford Mail.

**Reception in the Lord Mayors Parlour.** We understand that the new Lord Mayor, Craig Simmons will extend an invite to ODFAA to celebrate our centenary. Date to be confirmed and this will only accommodate 1 committee member per association. More details anon

### June 8th BIG Green Day in Broad Street

Our stall has a banner, wheelbarrow of produce, Oxford map and photos of all sites with some excerpts from our centenary book which is in final draft.

### August 21st – 6pm to 8pm ODFAA’s Chair invites you to her plot on Cripley Meadow to celebrate our birthday SEE INVITE

Current Association Committee members can apply for an invite and nominate past/present significant figures from their sites. Entry will be limited and by invitation ticket only.

It is a bring a ‘plate and bottle to share and your own cup to minimise waste but ODFAA will provide some drinks and nibbles

• **Centenary book** is out with committee for a final check. Should be printed before this event

### 28<sup>th</sup> October Monday 6pm to 10pm tbc Competition Award Evening and Centenary Bash at West Oxford Community Centre.

**30<sup>th</sup> November 7-9 Our Annual ODFAA Talk** We are hoping to book Paul Barney from [Edulis Rare Plants](#) at WOCA We did decide last year to try and provide hard

copy stuff for people to take away after talk – NJ can copy stuff if provided. As yet we have had no success in finding an allotment security specialist.



## 1919 – 2019 ODFAA's Centenary Year Events

- May 1** - Seed swap with gardeners from Poterne Garden, Grenoble. Visit to Pullen's Lane AA.
- May 10** - Simultaneous tree planting with Oxford's twin city, Grenoble. At 12.00 midday at Elder Stubbs Allotments and (13.00 local time) Poterne Gardens in Grenoble, crab apple trees of the variety Malus `Evereste' will be planted and plaques erected to mark both the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oxford-Grenoble Link and the ODFAA Centenary. Officiating in Oxford – Wendy Skinner-Smith (Chair – ODFAA) and Bob Price (Oxford City Council) Attending - Representatives from Elder Stubbs, RESTORE and ODFAA Committee Members.
- May 17**- Oxford Centenary Allotments' Competition - Final date for entries.
- June 8** Cripley Meadow Plant stall at Jericho Street Fair
- June 8** - ODFAA stall at the **Big Green Day Out on Broad St**, Oxford. ODFAA committee will be on hand all day to provide information on sites, promote the Centenary, [preview pages from 100 years of the ODFAA) and the acknowledged benefits of allotment gardening.
- June 17** First round of judging: Wk. beg
- Aug 11** Open day Lenthall Rd Centenary Day celebration
- Aug 19** Elder Stubbs Festival and competition
- Aug 21** **OUR 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY** Allotment Association Committee Members are invited to join Wendy Skinner Smith, Chair of ODFAA, on her plot on Cripley Meadow and Cripley Meadow. There will be a separate application form shortly.
- AUGUST ODFAA 100 Years publication ( one gift to each association then sale price)**
- Aug 24** - Open day and BBQ at South Ward allotments on Saturday 24th August
- September 16** Second round of judging: Wk. beg
- September 24th** Tues 7 for 7.15pm Allotment Liaison meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup> October** 6-10 TBC Awards and Certificates and Centenary Bash at WOCC
- 30<sup>th</sup> November** 7-15 to 915 ODFAA Talk at WOCC Probably WOCC
- December 10th** Tues 3.30pm - 5.30pm OCC / ODFAA Committee
- 2020
- January 5th** 10am - 1.30pm Pennard Plants Potato Fair at WOCC
- January 21st** Tues 7pm for 7.15pm Allotment Liaison meeting
- March 10th** Tues 3.30pm - 4.30pm OCC / ODFAA 4.30pm - 5.30pm ODFAA
- April 7th** ODFAA AGM Tues 6.30 - 7 pm 7.15 - 9pm ALM

There is a lot of [NAS News](#) this month so I have attached a link. It includes rodent training and a pesticide survey

Wendy Skinner Smith  
[www.odfaa.com](http://www.odfaa.com)  
Chair Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations  
Joint Chair OCC/ODFAA Allotment Liaison Meeting