

2020 Spring Newsletter

Our best wishes to you all during these testing times. As you will all be aware, we had to postpone the AGM that was due to be held this month due to lock down restrictions on social gatherings. Nevertheless we were able to undertake the election of a new committee and necessary changes to the constitution using forms sent via email. Mike Nunn (XXAA) acted as Returning Officer and reports:

“Of the 34 sites: 24 returned the Reports/Constitution changes form and all voted in favour, except that on one site’s form the ‘financial report’ box had no cross in it. But there was no cross in either the ‘against’ or ‘abstention’ box either, so it appears to be an accidental omission. 26 returned the Elections form and all voted for the named candidates. Clearly, all the proposals have been carried. I trust this is what is needed.

Michael Nunn”

Your new Committee:

Co-Chair	Phil Baker	St Clements & District
Co-Chair	Nick Jackson	Osney, St Thomas & New Botley
Minutes Secretary	Jenny Wright	Barton Fields
Treasurer	John Lardner	Headington Eden Drive
Officer - Disputes	Roy Leach	Kestrel Crescent
Officer - Website	Jane Millar	East Ward
Officer	Leonard Bowora	Court Place Farm
Officer	Julia Brocklesby	Thompson Terrace

We would like to raise a huge vote of thanks to our outgoing Chair, Wendy Skinner Smith. Wendy worked tirelessly for many years in this role – always championing allotments in Oxford. She will be sorely missed. Thanks are also due to those Associations who contributed to Wendy’s leaving present – a mature tree for her patio at home.

As a brief intro to your new Committee:

Phil Baker

- Chair of St Clement’s & District, better known as Pullen’s Lane Allotments.
- Joined ODFAA Committee in 2018; co-opted to co-ordinate Centenary events and publication.
- Previously had or shared plots at East Ward, Old Marston and Bartlemas.
- First allotment experience in Somerset, aged 5, with parents and older sister.
- Have lived in Oxford since 1991, with a break of 5 years in Exeter.
- Working experience: 10 years in music industry; 16 years with Oxfam; 2 years in UK community organisation development; Director and CEO in 2 national health charities; School governor; Pension Fund Trustee & Board member of 8 organisations. Now retired but remaining Board member of HQIP (NHS Clinical Audit).

Nick Jackson

- Secretary of Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments
- Born in Oxford and raised in Dublin. Returned to Oxford in 1992
- Plot holder on Botley Meadow since 2008 and Association Secretary for 5 years
- Minutes Secretary and Committee member of ODFAA since 2017
- Provides specialist advice on water harvesting on allotments to Oxford allotment associations
- Useful degree qualifications in Botany, Agriculture and Forestry
- 25 years’ experience working in land and water management in Europe, Africa, and Caribbean

- Special interest in water use by trees and crops during periods of drought.
- 30 years working with voluntary and community groups – committee member/secretary of most

Roy Leach

- Chair and now Secretary of the Kestrel Crescent Allotment Association
- Came to Oxford as a student in 1977 and never left the area
- Biochemistry degree (including virology, genetics, growth & development, immunology and chemical pharmacology)
- Extensive experience of the application of grievance & disciplinary procedures from both trade union and management perspectives
- Employment split roughly 50:50 between teaching and local government

Jenny Wright

- Secretary for Barton Fields Allotments Association
- Plot holder there for 10 years
- Retired but undertake adult literacy voluntary work
- Holiday home in Nice, France (when I am allowed to go there!)
- Spent most of my adult life in Oxford, firstly as a student then working for the NHS, latterly as a Consultant in Public Health

Julia Brocklesby

- Chair for Thomson Terrace Allotment Association
- Retired economist, accountant, IT having worked in US, Russia and Europe
- Wishing to respond to climate change, investigate sustainability and dry gardening
- Involved with Neighbourhood Plan aspects of health and well-being from Green Spaces

Insurance:

Our Treasurer, John, has informed us that the current insurance policies will continue beyond 30th April pending eventual payment. John has been sifting through a mountain of forms that he has received – data returns, insurance forms, and working out what is missing. If you are one of the sites that has not returned forms to John then please do so **as quickly as possible**. We will let you know when the new policies are ready.

Leases

The current COVID situation has meant that the process of getting the drafting process completed (Lease, Rules etc. with OCC) has been made more difficult. We are still waiting on NAS for some final documents. The new committee hopes to hold a virtual planning meeting of some sort on May 6th, and plan to update members after that date.