

Chair's Report

Streatley Allotments Society AGM 27th April 2021

This is the second time I will have reflected that we have been very lucky to be able to continue working our plots, despite lockdowns. What a strange year.

As Diana has mentioned in her report, we now have a big waiting list. 16 people are hoping for a plot, and given that there is no time limit for a tenancy, many are likely to have a very long wait. With the list split between Goring and Streatley residents we have approached both Parish Councils to let them know that there is an unmet local need. Our new Streatley Parish Council representatives, Colin Smith, has been very helpful in this regard.

We have had a terrific team running SAS for the last year; a supportive, reliable and very capable group. Diana (Membership Secretary) manages the spreadsheets of fees and welcoming new members, Imogen (Treasurer) keeps meticulous financial records, Linda (Minutes Secretary) makes sure we all know what we have been doing, and Joan (Social Secretary) has kept plot holders up-to-date through the newsletter, awaiting the time when we can meet up again.

The committee agendas have covered rabbits, hedges, dumped cars, strangers, footballs, unwanted parking, gates left open, jammed padlocks and many other topics.

Harry Beresford stepped into the Site Manager role, after Pete stood down, and has done a brilliant job. Sadly Harry will be leaving the committee at this AGM. We will miss his practical expertise, wisdom and good humour. It's been a real pleasure working with Harry.

So – we are seeking a new site manager. With the active and reliable committee, it need not be an onerous job, and Harry has kindly undertaken to provide practical support to whoever take on the role, at least for a while. But we do need to know that someone on the committee can carry the overview of the seasonal tasks required.

The Allotments are a community provision, which we manage ourselves as plot holders. Which means that we all have a part to play in making sure the allotments remain a wonderful place for us to spend our time. There are various ways in which plot-holders can support our community endeavour: through working parties, donating plants for fundraising, taking care of part of the site over and above your own plots.

And, importantly, through being on the Committee. We appreciate that some of us are more comfortable in meetings than others, but without the committee, the allotments couldn't exist, and over the years many current plot holders have played their part.

If you have not yet been on the committee, maybe it's your turn?! We are a good humoured group, and, for the last year, have been meeting on Zoom roughly every couple of months. We would love to hear from you if you would be willing to give it a go!

Karen Morton, Acting Chair.