

## 2016 Newsletter

### The committee members met on May 19<sup>th</sup>

**Wendy Skinner Smith** chairs meetings, organises agenda, writes report and newsletters, correspondence and liaises with OCC planning and asset management. **John Lardner** manages our finances, insurance and events. **Tim Treacher** organises the annual OCC/ODFAA competition and events. **Ian Sheppard**: helps with competition management. Tim is standing down after this year. We are still looking for competition help if we are to continue this next year. Do be in touch if you are interested. The best way to see how it works is to come out on a judging day. The next judging day is on September 4<sup>th</sup>. **We welcomed Nick Jackson as our new committee member.** John Hastings stood as minutes secretary but has since stood down. We have a vacancy for Vice Chair and Minutes Secretary.

### Competition update.

The competition papers were with OCC early April but only emailed on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the day before our meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Some associations reported AGM /ALM and competition papers were not received. Unfortunately this continues a history of communication via OCC Parks support staff which we are loathe to address by ODFAA taking on yet another job! The 2016 competition has 53 entries from 12 sites. The available funding for the competition is £1,000.00 from OCC and £350.0 from ODFAA.

### Plans for 2016.

- There will be a group discussion at the ALM in September on watering and water harvesting. Nick Jackson is a hydrologist and Tim, Ian, John and Wendy will report on water harvesting on their sites.
- Risk assessment will be the topic for the ALM meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. IS will reproduce and organise the Risk Assessment package from Allotments for All. The meeting will discuss how to compile risk assessments. JL suggested that we ask representatives from Headington/John Garne Way who have recently reviewed their policy to contribute?
- November Talk on composting and crop rotation. TT will contact and arrange a meeting (dtbc) at the town hall.



### Sign update.

Sourcing small OCC logo was delaying this. The final design will have room for the association's web site information. It was proposed that ODFAA would supply one A3 sign, free of charge to each ODFAA site, at a cost of £2.132.00. This was passed unanimously. Any site requiring more than one sign or a larger sign (A2), would have to meet the cost themselves. **John Lardner will circulate an information order form with details asap.**

### Grant forms

**OCC had amended grant forms with 2016 foci and these would go to OCC for distribution before the end of May. Focus is projects that develop and improve sites** Grant will not be available for fencing, security, plot clearance or machinery. Only associations that have updated their 2016 database sheets and have report/ evidence to show previous grant spend will be eligible.

Stuart Fitzsimmons is developing project details for the c.£60,000 capital programme. Focus was to fencing, security and health and safety but it is likely that completing the 2007 fencing project will take most of the funds. This will need timing for completion in 2016 to account for weather and usage.

### Insurance

ODFAA Still chasing as Zurich had mistakenly reduced the £10 million PL back to £5 million. Our insurance holds until they remedy this mistake and issue a new invoice and certificates. It is proving difficult to process the insurance updates in the time present available. We decided to alleviate this as follows

**the ODFAA /OCC committee meeting is moved to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
**the AGM/ALM meeting moves to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### Association keys to OCC

We await a list from OCC and discussed if OCC should pay a deposit as previously some lost.

### Planning update

Horspath, Brasenose and Barton Fields were discussed. We are negotiating with OCC for compensation for statutory land at Horspath. This would add to our capital fund. East Minchery Farm site needs levelling, fencing and grassing. It needs advertising so that it can form an association.

## **2016 / 2017 Dates**

- *May 4th insurance renewal (membership fees paid by this time)*
- *May 6<sup>th</sup> Final date for competition entries*
- *May 18 Weds ODFAA committee planning meeting 7pm Chair's house.*
- *May 22 Sun/May 24 Tues 1st Allotment Competition judging*
- *2016 ODFAA summer dates*
- *June 11th 12:00 - 16:00 Saturday*
- *Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Plant Stall at Jericho Street Fair*
- *June 28th Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme project team will be holding a drop-in event at Oxford Town Hall to share the route of the proposed scheme. The event will be open from 2-8pm in the Assembly Room at Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BX. You will also be able to view the information online on [www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-flood-risk-management-scheme/oxford-and-abingdon-reducing-flood-risk](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-flood-risk-management-scheme/oxford-and-abingdon-reducing-flood-risk)*
- *4th July return sign orders to John Lardner*
- *See amended sign on left*
- *17th July Sunday 11:00 - 16:00*
- *Barracks Lane Allotment Association Open Day*
- *20th August 2016 Closing date for entries Saturday August 20th at 10am.*
- *The Elder Stubbs Vegetable Show [Click for more info](#)*
- *Elder Stubbs Allotment Site*
- *Rymers Lane, Oxford OX4 3JZ*
- *Entries are invited from all Oxford allotment sites NB. Exhibits to be brought from 8.30am. No exhibit will be received after 10am on show day and none may be removed until 4pm. Only one entry in each class*
- *September 4th Second Competition Judging or plots AND sites*
- *Aug 17 Weds 8.30am OCC /Fed Committee*
- *September 20 Tues **Allotment Liaison meeting** 7 for 7.15pm (Watering an water harvesting)*
- *September 4/5 Sun/Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Allotment Competition judging*
- *September 27<sup>th</sup> Allotment Competition Award Ceremony in the Town Hall tbc*
- *(WSS is away from November 17 to February 20)*
- *November ODFAA Talk tbc*
- *Dec 6th Weds 8.30am OCC /Fed Committee*
- *2017 Jan 17th Tues **Allotment Liaison meeting** 7pm for 7.15pm (Risk assessment)*
- *February ODFAA Talk tbc*
- *March 7th Weds 8.30am OCC /Fed Committee*
- *April 4th Tues 6.30 -7 pm O&DFAA AGM /7.15 **Allotment Liaison meeting***