

AGM THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2020 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome and a Happy New Year to you all.

After the previous season's exceptional climate we experienced a far more normal growing year and most of us were able to harvest quality produce.

Plots generally have been well worked although after inspection by the Committee one plot holder was required to leave and one plot holder received a cautionary notice.

Unfortunately this will be the third year I have had to mention the combination lock being left open with the combination showing on the allotment gate. Also, some plot holders are using the practice of taking the lock and putting it in their vehicle whilst on the site. On two occasions this has resulted in inconvenience to other plot holders when the lock had been removed and on one occasion the lock was not returned therefore resulting in the purchase of a new lock (£30).

The Flower & Veg Show was again successful thanks to the work of a small number of members resulting in a good profit enabling us to keep the rents at the current rate. Entries, however, were at an all time low and I would encourage more plot holders to enter this year's event. It is never taken too seriously and the more that enter the better.

Many thanks are due to the unsung heroes. John Hedigan who mows at the top of the site and Lew Griffiths who strims and is always ready to assist other plot holders. We are very grateful for their excellent endeavours on our behalf. Joy & Mick Dennison for again organising the Christmas lunch at the Blue Bell pub which was well attended and a most enjoyable event. Joy & Mick, together with Derek Reade have also been responsible for the upkeep of the orchard and wild flower area.

I would also like to thank Leighton Wardell for his work as Treasurer and providing a steady hand on the rudder, or should I say tiller. His work, as always, is invaluable to the running of the allotment and has been for many years.

Finally, a big thank you to Rob Hawkes, Secretary, who is sadly standing down due to a change in circumstances. He was never really a volunteer, but stepped into the role at short notice and has proved to be an unflappable, competent and industrious Secretary. In addition to his Secretarial role, he organised a very successful barbecue, looked after the bee hives and maintained the hedges. To say he'll be missed is an under statement and my sincere thanks go to him and his wife Helen and let's hope he finds the opportunity to take a plot again when life is less busy for him.

I make the same plea I have made virtually every AGM for new blood to join the Committee. Some of us are getting a bit long in the tooth and cannot go on forever. There is now at least one vacancy so nominations are required this evening. The demands are not great with two or three meetings a year at most, so please give it some consideration.

It just leaves me to wish you a good year and I look forward to seeing all the results of your efforts at the Flower & Veg Show.