

# Eynsham Allotment Association AGM 2021

## Chair's Report

Although still conducted under the conditions of COVID 19 the year under review has been a good one in the life of the Allotment Association. The six months prior to the start of the year enabled the committee to develop a way of working under lockdown and government restrictions. Throughout this year members of the committee have operated with delegated responsibility for the principal areas of activity checking on line with other members of the committee as and when necessary. Much of the burden of day-to-day oversight has fallen on the two Field Managers: Peter Taylor on Field 1 and Margaret Key on Field 2 and we are very grateful to them for their work throughout the year. Their work was supported and developed through the establishment of a Review Group which visits and reviews all plots 3 or 4 times a year and is able to recommend action to be taken in respect of plots that cause concern or of ploholders who need support. Following its establishment, the group conducted reviews in June and October of this year. The next review will be in February of 2022. I am grateful to the members of this group for their work and especially to its convenor Christine Cox.

With the easing of COVID restrictions over the summer we were able to resume the Annual Best Kept Plot Competition which had been suspended last year. We are grateful to Lucy and Jonathan from 'The Market Garden' for undertaking the judging against a rigorous set of criteria and we are pleased to be able to present 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards and trophies to winners at this AGM. The judges, who had acted in the same capacity in 2019, commented on the generally high standard of cultivation noting particularly the improvement in the condition of plots on Field 1. Thanks to the judges and to all who worked to support the Best Kept Plot Competition this year.

As always there were a number of issues and adverse circumstances with which the committee has had to deal in the course of the year. On two occasions sheds were broken in to and tools stolen. On two other occasions produce was stolen from plots and at other times taps were turned on and maliciously left running over night. In February a delivery lorry ignored the condition of the track in Field 2 and got bogged down in the turning circle. The vehicles sent to recover the lorry caused some damage to the access track resulting in a successful insurance claim which, because we have undertaken the repair work ourselves, has been of general benefit to the association. Some restoration work remains to be done on Field 2 whilst the track, turning circle and carpark on Field 1 have received a dressing of 22 tonnes of limestone ballast. Congratulations and thanks to all who organized this work and assisted in the two working parties. I hope that the forthcoming year will see more working party activity to address the common areas of our estate.

Most ploholders reported that it was a strange year for cultivation. It got off to a very slow start with a wet period followed by an extended cold spell. Throughout the year the seasons rarely behaved as we once expected. However by the end of summer most people have reported a reasonable harvest and we do not have long now to prepare our plots for winter. I offer my thanks to the whole Committee and all members of the Allotment Association for their support in the past year and look forward to another successful year ahead.

Martin Groves (Chair) November 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

