

East Sheen Allotments (BHAS) **Annual General Meeting** Midday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Apologies for absence: T & D Foster, A Cleasby, P Edelin, Mr & Mrs Brock, H Weiskopf.

Number of members attending: 41

Arising from 2014: What is the criteria for inspection of allotments? This is now available on the website.

Minutes of 2014 AGM accepted proposed by D Abel, seconded by J Bentham.

**Chairman's report: Alex Clarke**

Sept show 2014 a success but would like more cookery class entries judged by Adrienne Cleasby. The produce was ably judged by Mary Thorp. A small profit was made.

Open day in May 2015 also a success with a scarecrow competition and an "I spy" game for children devised by Diane McLelland. A clear profit of £800 was made and the day very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Council tree work done recently was minimal. Allotment holders must remove tree seedlings.

Alex, who is retiring as chairman, thanked the people who helped run the allotments:

Mary Thorp for cutting the grass paths, being a site rep., judging, writing the newsletter, donating a raffle prize (tickets to Hampton Ct Flower Show); Anna Stokoe and Mark for running the trading shed so efficiently; Donal Douglas for continuing to sort out fences along the Priory site boundary; Keith and Nicolette for running the BBQ, John Bentham for sorting out the drinks; huge thanks to David Abel for setting up the website and to Diane McLelland who is running it; Gina and Diana for continuing to run bric a brac stalls; all the site reps.

New committee members are always welcome as are new ideas.

**Allotment secretary's report: Alex Clarke**

This involves inspecting and letting plots as well as liaising with the council.

Clear number signs are needed on plots to make this job easier, especially on divided plots.

14 plots have been let this year and various warning letters sent. A plea to let site reps know if problems arise concerning allotments.

There are 347 people on the waiting list. They are given 3 choices of plot if available.

Fees will rise to £15.80 per rod in October, concessions half price. (Wandsworth charges £21.50 per rod)

A map showing allotment areas is on the website.

BRAG (Borough of Richmond Allotments Group) meet to share ideas and good practice on allotments. Mary Thorp has offered to attend meetings, others would be welcome.

**Treasurer's report - Sophie Kennedy:**

Income derived from:

The trading shed – profit of £1,198; subscriptions - £1,610; open day/show - £1,039.

Major expenses:

Site maintenance (shed repairs, new mower, Triangle site path)

Rubbish collections: Apr 2013 £350, Mar 2014 £750, May 2015 £980. The latter will appear in the 2015 – 16 accounts.

The society showed a surplus of £826 in the year 2014 to 2015.

We have £10,594 in the bank.

Money has to be available for work when needed.

Contact site reps or [info@eastsheenallotments.com](mailto:info@eastsheenallotments.com) on the website if you have suggestions needing expenditure.

### **New Constitution**

Drawn up by Alex with legal advice. Colin Goodwin complimented Alex on producing a clear, simply written constitution.

Question: Should 40 or 30 people be present at a meeting to change the constitution? The meeting agreed 30 was sufficient.

John Hynde asked why the society has Barnes in its name. Could it be simplified (as has been done for the website) to “East Sheen Allotments” which better describes the areas. Mary Thorpe explained the name is historical. Derek Lawrence Brown will look into the steps needed to change the name and write a proposal for change to be voted on at 2016 AGM.

Vote to accept new constitution proposed by Peter Low, seconded by Derek LB, passed by the meeting.

Alex noted that in future changes to the constitution must be properly recorded.

### **Appointment of committee:**

**Chairman – Duncan Hoadley** has offered to stand for chairman – being unopposed he was duly elected (and thanked).

Secretary – no offers, but Susan Moore agreed to look at the job specification to consider taking this role.

Other members of the committee are willing to continue.

Mary offered a vote of thanks to Alex for her hard work and excellent leadership for the last 3 years.

**Website:** the new website is up and running. Please look. Diana would welcome unusual recipes, planting tips, photos (with permission if of people) for the website: [eastsheenallotments.com](http://eastsheenallotments.com)

Names and contact details of committee members has been removed from the website.

**Bonfires:** a reminder, we are allowed bonfires but please not during school hours (asthma attack last year brought on by smoke) or when windy. Burn dry material, not wet, as this causes smoke. Bonfires must not cause a nuisance.

**AOB:**

Mary suggested clearing of weeds at south side of trading shed to be followed by planting of shrub roses.

New house to be built to north of Hertford main gate. Donal is in contact with builders to make sure damage does not occur to plots. Builders will restore fence.

Theft from cars parked in Hertford Ave still happening. Leave NOTHING in parked cars.

Gardening lessons for families proposed by Esther de Groot. Two plots needed for long term use. A proposal of what is required should be written and given to Duncan (new chairman).

Duncan Hoadley thanked Alex for her hard work and said he hoped to continue her good work.

The meeting was followed by an excellent BBQ and social time.

Minutes taken by Janet Bostock