

ICKLETON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – JANUARY 2015

This is our seventh Annual General Meeting and marks the end of a difficult year both on and off the allotment.

It is with deepest regret that this year we lost a very dear friend of the village and allotment fraternity, Jenny Pell, we are all aware of her brave fight against her illness which has been seen by her determination to get her allotment in order while always taking time to chat to whoever passed.

In memory of Jenny we have planted over a hundred daffodil bulbs around the notice board by the shed as a mark of respect to remind us all of her each year. She will be sadly missed and all our thoughts go out to her family and friends.

Water water everywhere but not a drop to drink !!!!!!! Well (no pun meant) Ian has painstakingly been working on this and I would kindly ask him to give you all an update in AOB but in the meantime our heartfelt thanks go out to him for his efforts which will benefit everyone and may attract more plot holders.

After many years of support Ros is standing down from the post as secretary due to other commitments but will still be on the committee. I could not read her shorthand anyway. Thousands of thanks from all of the committee for your hard work.

Despite requests for new committee members, it has been hard to find any interested parties with the exception of June Woodward, who we have welcomed for some time. Many of the committee have been involved since the start of the allotments and some fresh new ideas at our bi-monthly meetings would be much appreciated (by the way, these are held in the local pub!). These meetings are not just for the committee but for all the plot holders so please come along for a chat and share your views and ideas with us.

At last year's meeting the issue of unattended plots was raised and actions have been taken to try to keep on top of these issues. The weather over the last year has proven a difficult one to predict and has meant that at times all of us have struggled to keep the allotments as clear as we would like. If you are having any issues keeping on top of your plot please contact the committee to discuss any options.

We are very grateful for the services of Andrew and Lukasz who have kept the paths, vacant plots and the edges clear of weeds and long grass. It is also the responsibility of the plot holders not only to keep the weeds down where cultivation is in progress but also the fenced off edges of their plot as the strimmer will not get through the fence and the weeds growing will spread back onto the pathways.

A whole year without a break in unless I missed it. It appears that the message of not keeping anything valuable in your shed has been a success. A good idea is not to put a lock on the door as this shows there is nothing worth stealing inside. Also please keep the gates closed if you are the last person to leave the allotment to avoid any unwanted trespassers from coming on site. If you see someone who continually parks for a while and does not look local let any of the committee members know, a number plate number is useful.

We have put a new idea in place for the Cecil Vincent cup for the best kept allotment 2015, this will be judged by Lewis Duke. As landlord of the plots, he has agreed to have a look around during the year and let us know the result before the next AGM. Our congratulations go out to Carolyn for winning this year with a very impressive plot.

If you feel you would like an allotment and are not sure you can manage a whole plot there are varying sizes we can offer so please contact any of the committee members who will guide you to your requirements.

This year, although we have had some expenditure, we will not be raising the rent for the plots.

As Chairman I would like to thank all the committee members who have given up their free time to support the allotments, with a particular thanks to Lorraine, Ros and Ian who have worked hard to keep the rest of us under control and to produce the minutes from the meetings, plot allocations and seed orders. Also to Chris our treasurer who has done an excellent job. Thanks also to Terry for auditing the books.

We will be trying to have another Chairman's BBQ this year and we will let you all know the date, just bring some booze and grub and enjoy a quiet afternoon with your other plot holders.

Hopefully 2015 will bring a more traditional weather pattern helping us all make the most of the allotments. Once again any new members on the committee will be made extremely welcome. May I wish you all a very productive and drier year ahead.