

## **Minutes OTHAS AGM 2016**

*Held at St Augustine Church (Thursday 22 September 2016)*

**Apologies** - Maggie Crumb, Paul Shrubshall, Carol, Mark, David Emptage, Amanda Cohen, Zoe Buckley, Fi Pereira, Andrew Coulson, James Olver

**Minutes of AGM 2015** Agreed

**Matters Arising** - Knotweed now virtually under control. A picture of what it looks like to be posted, alert a Committee member if you see any

**Chair's Report** (see later for full report)

**Treasurer's Report** (see later)

The report was accepted

### **Membership Report**

From 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016, 10 plots have been let and 7 plot transfers took place. There are two vacant plots (plots 49 and 53).

One plot has been recombined from two halves in one (plot 25) and one plot has been split from a whole to two halves (plot 58). The committee issued two Notice to Quit in the year, for plot 36A and 8B.

The waiting list remains closed for traditional plots for Lewisham residents (as they still face a 30 year wait), but is open for Southwark residents. The raised beds waiting lists are open for both boroughs. There are 126 people on the Southwark waiting list, 85 on the Lewisham waiting list, 5 on the Southwark raised bed waiting list and 2 on the Lewisham raised bed waiting list.

Our lease with Southwark requires us to aim for a 75% Southwark residency, which we have made a little more progress towards. We currently have a 40% Southwark / 60% Lewisham split.

### **Elections**

Chair : Andy Bradshaw (nominated Carole; seconded Martin) Elected

Secretary : Jon Johnson (nominated Martin; seconded Ian) Elected

Treasurer : Alice Baker (nominated Jon; seconded Simon) Elected

Membership : Carole Backler (nominated Dee; seconded Ian) Elected

Work Days : Martin Smith (nominated Jill; seconded Dee) Elected

Social: Simon Miles (nominated Ian; seconded Jill) Elected

Other: James Olver (nominated Simon; seconded Dee) Elected

Rashid had expressed interest to join the committee and it was agreed to approach him.

**Trustees** - It was unanimously agreed to replace Tony & Fran with Andy Bradshaw and Jon Johnson.

Auditors- Linda McLaughlin & Jane Wilson (Proposed Carole, seconded Martin) Elected

### **AOB**

Ian reported on the UCL project on the Compost Loos. Details will be posted on the website. Note that they have been running for 10 years!

## Chairs Report to AGM

May I start by thanking all your committee members for their contribution to the society this year: Jon, Alice, Simon, Carole, Martin and James do most of their work in the background, invisible to ploholders, it is extremely time-consuming but they must love it as none has indicated a desire to step down from the Committee this year!

The Society has benefited from significant contributions from many other members this year: Ian for running the Wassail and Apple Pressing events William for renovating the pizza oven Rashid for getting a children's plot going Jill for all the chutney she has donated Mark for taking on the security brief wholeheartedly, now he has recovered

I hope everyone has had a productive year on their plots, despite the wet winter and cool wet weather in late spring.

It was great to open our gates for the midsummer Open Day and it has been fun to welcome back William Grealish, so he can resume the painting task he left off decades ago! We are also looking forward to the output to the very "probing" research undertaken into our compost loo.

However, I think we can all agree the site is not looking its best at the moment; it is essential we all do our 6 hours' work on the site (which does not include maintaining the paths alongside your plot). Just ask the Committee if you have time to do a job when there is not a work day. You can dig over the new plots just below the orchard, lay some steps, woodchip paths, weed the paving round the raised beds. Do it and tell us you have done so; you can use the record sheet on the notice board.

While I am in "haranguing mode", can I remind everyone that the bonfire area is not for composting, and certainly not for dumping anything from your home! Please only put there burnable materials like branches and timber.

We have continued to keep an eye on standards of plot cultivation. We will always be too harsh for some, too lenient for others; our aim is to follow due process, tempered with some discretion, in our efforts to keep plots cultivated. Some ploholders have been told we will not accept their rent unless things improve in month or so.

Security-wise, we have not had the worst of years with regard to theft from plots, but we did suffer from a break-in in the green container. Please ask Mark Emptage or a Committee member (in complete confidence) if you need one of our cameras trained on your plot for a while.

In other news, the Council is planning major changes to the cemetery area. We have made representations as a statutory consultee; we do not expect the work to affect us adversely. One benefit will be an upgrade of the access road and car park.

We have been visited again by Knotweed Dave, and we are hoping one more spray will clear infestations by the churchyard and by the compost loo.

The website has been revamped this year, for which thanks are due to Jon. Any contributions you may have should be e-mailed to [info@onetreehill.org](mailto:info@onetreehill.org).

The lease negotiations grind on, we have now received draft documentation, which is being critiqued by a legal expert at the National Safety for Allotments and Leisure Gardening (NSALG).

And now before handing over to other committee members for their reports, can I just thank you again for coming and wish you all a happy and productive year on your plots.

## Treasurer's Report to AGM

Statement of Accounts for period 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016

<b>Bank Balance (1st September 2015)</b>	£3776.48
<i>Plus income</i>	£2625.00
<i>Less expenditure</i>	£1892.59
Total	£4508.89
<b>Bank Balance (31st August 2015)</b>	£4634.33
<b>Income (1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016)</b>	£2625.00
<i>Plot Rents</i>	2615.00
<i>Associate Member rents</i>	10.00
<b>Expenditure (1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016)</b>	
<i>Site rent to Southwark Council</i>	838.44
<i>Affiliation Fee (NSALG)</i>	192.50
<i>Water Rates</i>	288.00
<i>Site Insurance</i>	68.50
<i>Strimmer Repair</i>	59.07
<i>Petrol and additives for strimmer</i>	38.08
<i>New helmet &amp; visor for strimmer</i>	24.99
<i>Wheelbarrows (2)</i>	79.98
<i>Wheelbarrow repairs</i>	56.00
<i>Gardening tools / saws</i>	77.03
<i>Padlock &amp; keys (green container)</i>	68.50
<i>Rubbish removal</i>	130.00
<i>Money taken for Petty cash</i>	40.00
<b>Committed Expenditure</b>	
Key deposits money held	190.00
<b>Monies available as of 31st August 2016</b>	<b>£4634.33</b>