

Shepherds Hill Allotments Association
AGM
24th November 2020 at 7.00pm
Zoom

Present: Charles Sweeney, Trevor Wyatt, Julie Yogasundram (chair), Julia Grant, Jill Russell, Juliet Mann, Annie Griffiths, Jo Sheehan, Bruno Dore, Tam Daley, Ralph Gibson, Julia Grant, Jonathan and Fiona Ashley Norman, Jane Bywaters, Stephen Cushnir, Gillian Reynolds, Nick Finley, Sarah Elliot, Jackie Cooper, Nick Whitaker, Gary Doyland, Sharon Webber, Alan Midgley, Liz Denver, Becky Jennings, Christopher Bell, Fi Godfrey, John Golding, Jackie Cooper, Jo Murray, Nick Whitaker, Richard and Tam Daley, Vivienne 121, Esther Coles and Tom, Jenny Gledhill, Kim Valdez, Elliot Hodges, Eugene McConville, David, Thomas Tamba, Hugh Bateman.

1. Apologies

Carol, Hannah, Annabelle Liebus, Jane Shallice, Tracey Gardner, Jill Pack, Peter Till, Mary Bratley, Andy Wraight,

2. Minutes of 2019 AGM

Approved.

A cider press has been donated and is one way we are addressing the issue of surplus produce on site. It can also be used for apple juice. Cider is currently being brewed.

3. Annual Report

Julie highlighted key points from the annual report.

Carol (Plot 51A, whose shed was recently burnt down) asked for her message of thanks to the allotment community to be minuted: "I want to register my heartfelt thanks for all the commiserations and practical support many have given me over the destruction of my allotment shed - the support I have received has been a silver lining...."

Julie extended a special thanks to Ian Potts, John Burrell and Tim McNaughton for all the time and hard work they have put into the construction of the Barn. Juliet gave a (virtual) presentation of hampers for each of them, as a token of our thanks. To be delivered following the meeting!

Thanks to long-serving, outgoing committee members Gary Sycamore and Nick Finlay. Bottles of wine to show our appreciation of all their hard work were delivered earlier in the day.

Bruno raised a question about the re-opening of the waiting list for a restricted period in the new year and how we will let people know the list is opening. For the past six months or so, all enquiries to info@ email have received an automated reply stating that interested enquirers should check the website regularly, and prior to that we responded individually to all enquiries saying the same. On the homepage of the website there is advance notice of the waiting list opening in January 2021.

4. Treasurer's report

Nick Finley summarised his treasurer's report. A question was raised about how we decide how much to donate to the Harington scheme. Each year the committee agrees a) which charity to support and b) what proportion of money made at the plant sale to donate (50% the year the accounts cover).

5. Plans for 2021

Julie ran through the plans for the year, with all fingers crossed that there will soon be a time again when we can gather and socialise, and begin to make good use of our wonderful new Barn.

Meanwhile, Annie reported a very successful online winter sale of her and Julie's produce, with the majority of goods selling out in one day!

Liz Denver put in a plug for the slug collars now available from the trading shed. They cost £4 each and last for years and are especially useful for protecting beans, courgettes, and squash.

A suggestion was made that it would be good to use the veranda of the Barn as a place where plot holders can leave any surplus food. And we could have a white board outside the Barn where people can leave messages that on their plot they have spare produce.

6. Elections for committee members

Nine nominations had been received, six from existing committee members. Jonathan Ashley Norman proposed and Jackie Wedgewood seconded the election of all those nominated and this was approved.

Jo Sheehan is co-opted as the new treasurer.

7. AOB.

The meeting gave a vote of thanks to Julie for chairing the meeting, and to Annie for keeping the trading shed going so well in this difficult year.

Esther Coles then gave an interesting talk on bees. She talked about some of her activities on and off the site in her role as a beekeeper, and suggested some future activities that could be organised, particularly once we are able to make full use of the Barn. A bee safari for Esther to show plot-holders the many different varieties of bees on the site was a particularly popular suggestion.

Esther made suggestions of plants that are particularly good pollinators, and this website was recommended:

www.lbka.org.uk/pollinator_friendly_plants.html