



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE

9

APRIL 99

EDITORIAL

The members who attended the 1998 A.G.M. left in a subdued mood, having learnt that our Honorary Chairman for the last five years was no longer able to guarantee the time needed to do the job to his own exacting standards. He therefore tendered his resignation.

Elected to the Committee in 1991 as a Hunts Pond Road representative, Brian took over as acting Chairman later that year and was elected Honorary Chairman at the 1992 A.G.M. During his first year he also had to become Acting Honorary Secretary, carrying out both jobs until the 1993 A.G.M. when the present Honorary Secretary was disinterred from his compost heap by the Trading Secretary and persuaded to relieve Brian of some of his workload.

The major task facing Brian was to negotiate the terms of our new lease, which was radically different from any of our previous leases. By this time, local councils had been changed from providers of services to facilitators, the effect of which meant they could no longer maintain our allotments as before but would have to buy in such services. They proposed that we should do this ourselves and, to cover the costs that would be incurred, we could retain all our rents rather than handing over to Fareham all but a token sum to cover our administrative costs. He faced considerable resistance from some of the committee but his tact and negotiating skills eventually won acceptance. Brian then ensured that the necessary measures to ensure financial probity and control were introduced and that a contingent reserve equivalent to a year's rental has been established.

Brian also became the *de facto* Honorary Chief Mechanical Engineer, struggling ceaselessly to overcome the abuse that our machines received, and thereby saving the Association much more than his honorarium each year.

As an expression of their esteem and gratitude, the members present at the A.G.M. voted for the committee to purchase a gift for presentation to Brian. At the January committee meeting, it was agreed that a crystal Waterford decanter and glasses would be appropriate and this was presented to Brian at the Jim Lett Hut on Sunday 31st January. His successor will do well to emulate his example.

FINDING A CHAIRMAN

The Association, for the second time in its 26 year life, found itself in the position of not having a chairman elected at its A.G.M. 20 years ago Jim Schofield, another excellent Honorary Chairman retired and the late Gwyn Davies, then Trading Secretary, held the fort until a successor was found. The procedure for filling such vacancies is covered by rule 7 of the Association. Informal discussions between committee members and at the January committee meeting led to several unsuccessful invitations. The week after the Committee

meeting, Ray Brown, one of the Sarisbury Site Managers, was persuaded by his colleagues at Sarisbury and supported by several committee members to agree to being nominated. Consequently, an extraordinary committee meeting was called, for which any further nominations were requested. None was received and Ray was unanimously elected Honorary Acting Chairman at the meeting held on 31st January. Welcome to the cauldron Ray—it is ironic that your first major preoccupation will be to negotiate an extension to our lease!

ACTING CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As Honorary Acting Chairman, obviously I have a hard act to follow. Brian, my predecessor is still very active helping in the Trading Hut and rebuilding a working Flymo from two others.

I hope to visit all our sites. It would be appreciated by the Site Managers if tenants took their rubbish home, particularly plastic and glass, and not dump it in the hedges.

At Allotment Road, we have a wealth of knowledge and freely imparted tips, the latest being the one about planting onions and spuds together so that in dry weather the spuds eyes get a whiff and they will water themselves. (*It's not what's in them Ray, it's the way you tell them*).

There is a wholly welcome increase in tenancies by women, some of whom have taken on 20 rods. They, along with many others want to eat organic fruit and veg and that the best way to ensure this is to grow your own. Come on you blokes, there are still vacant allotments.

1999 RENTAL POSITION

Each year, we publish an up-to-date rental position. The table shows a comparison between this year and the preceding two years. It can be seen that this year, almost completely due to the situation at Hunts Pond Road, the overall % of allotments let is less than last year. The improved letting position at Sarisbury, started by Jim Bradshaw, has been continued by the present managers. Well done all of you! The 417 unlet rods represents a loss of income of £708:90 plus the association fees.

	AREA	1997	1998	1999	% let
Hunts Pond Road	1550	234	150	235	84.8
Lodge Road	163	0	0	0	100.0
Posbrook	190	52.5	65	60	68.4
Sarisbury	733	123.5	102	72	90.2
Warsash	605	24.5	0	40	93.4
Overall	3241	434.5	317	417	87.1
% let		86.6	90.2	87.1	

LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations for the renewal of our lease are about to begin. We have been asked to submit written comments to Fareham before the next Liaison Meeting on May 25th. If anyone has any matters they wish to be discussed, could they please submit them to the Honorary Secretary by May 14th. It is probably of academic interest only, but in a strictly legal sense, termination notices should be issued to everyone whenever a new lease is signed, but as this has never happened in the past it is highly

unlikely that it will happen this time. The new lease will operate from April 2000.

One matter has already been settled, in that we have been asked to freeze our rents until the other Allotment Associations have caught up with us. We are all required to keep the rentals in line with the Retail Price Index, which we have done. The other Associations are now charging 20p per rod less than us. The rents will remain at the present level for next year.

LEAFLETS

You should find included with this issue two leaflets, one being the "official" version from Fareham of the do's and don'ts of bonfires. Please read it and follow its guidelines so that our Acting Honorary Chairman will be spared much unnecessary apologising. The other leaflet is from the Hampshire Gardens Trust regarding their proposals to celebrate the Millennium. One of our tenants has already suggested we produce a photographic record of a year in the allotment, and perhaps this could be proposed to the Trust as an item for inclusion in their book. Please let your Site Manager have your opinions on this proposal, particularly if you are more adept at photography than your editor who often does not uncover the lens, and when he does presses the wrong button, or if he does manage to take a snap has ended up with more undoubtedly artistic pictures of his fingers than anything else.

FINANCE AND PROJECT SUB-COMMITTEE

At its November meeting the committee agreed to establish a sub-committee to review available funds and propose major projects. The membership of this sub-committee consisted of Bill Jacob, Ray Brown, Kit Colson and Sandra Milam.

The financial review established that there was £3500 available for immediate expenditure and that the annual surplus, after reserving finance for regular expenditure items such as hedge cutting, skips and insurance, would be about £1100.

The items that have so far been considered are:

1) **Site appearance**

It was agreed that too many of our sites had too many derelict areas and plots and that a concerted effort should be made to clean them up by such measures as removing unused derelict sheds, levelling and cleaning unused plots. This work was costed at £700 for skips, £1600 p.a. for repeated mowing of empty plots and £ 300 p.a. for spraying with Roundup (use of Roundup would reduce considerably the need for mowing but the paths would still need doing for which generators are available).

2) **Gates**

Prices are to be obtained for replacing gates where necessary (e.g., the domestic gates in Hunts Pond Road). The gates cost at least £85 but to this would have to be added the costs of posts and installation. Implementation would be phased over several years.

3) **Water**

The eventual aim is to have a tap by each plot (i.e., at the centre of each block of 4). The present lease with Fareham allows us to do this but no costings have been made yet because the new lease may curtail the possibilities.

4) **Equipment**

As the Committee has recently decided to phase out all common user machines, no further action is to be taken. The Association now has a professional petrol strimmer for use by the Site Managers for plot clearance work, and four generators for use by tenants with their own machines.

5) **Disabled plot**

This subject had been discussed at the A.G.M. and it was therefore decided no action was necessary at present.

In order to assist letting of plots, it was proposed that each site should contain two or three plots on each site in a condition suitable for immediate occupation. This proposal was agreed at the March Committee Meeting.

MISCELLANEA

- ◆ **Skips.** There will be no set date for all sites this year, individual site managers are making their own arrangements, although skips will be provided at Hunts Pond Road over the weekend of the bank holiday at the *end* of May.
- ◆ **Allotment Competition.** Elimination judging for the competition will take place on Saturday 4th July, with independent judging taking place about two weeks later. Please contact the Honorary Secretary if you want further details and to enter.
- ◆ **Soot.** Help yourselves to a bag from the pile at the side of the Services Hut.
- ◆ **Help wanted.** Can anyone with access to a pillar drill and pop riveter help to assemble allotment number plates, possibly for a small fee. We have the plates and the legs but not the means to unite them.

**This year's list of officers and site managers appears on the back page
so please retain it for reference**



WESTERN WARDS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

1998/1999 COMMITTEE

Hon. Secretary

Robin Halliday
45 Locksheath Park Road
Locks Heath
Southampton SO31 6NA
(01489) 574733
(IPR 12C/12D)

Acting Hon. Chairman

Ray Brown
20 Daisy Lane
Locks Heath
Southampton SO31 6RA
(01489 583295)
(SAR. 28A/29A)

Hon. Treasurer

Bill Jacob
2 The Hurdles
Titchfield Common
Fareham PO14 4AN
(01489) 582719
(IPR 21C/21D)

In addition to the Officers, the following members were elected to run the Association for the coming year at the 1998 Annual General Meeting

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SITE MANAGERS

HUNTS POND ROAD

plots 40A/40B2	ALASTAIR BURNETT	10 Westminster Gardens, Titchfield Common, Fareham PO14 4QB	01489-583671
plots 38A/39A	COLIN CRISP	37 Cyprus Road, Titchfield Common, Fareham PO14 4JZ	01489-600533
plots 12C1/13C	NORMAN HATCH	7 Stable Close, Titchfield Common, Fareham PO14 4AW	01489-571162

LODGE ROAD

plots 44C/44D	SANDRA MILAM	10 Hardy Close, Locks Heath, Southampton SO31 6NJ	01489-582054
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POSBROOK

plots 66/68-70	JIM MITCHELL	after May 1st 31 Coach Hill, Titchfield Fareham PO14 4CJ	01329-845725
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SARISBURY

plot 25A/26B	HARRY HAYLOR	106 Bridge Road, Sarisbury Green, Southampton SO31 7EP	01489-584486
plots 36A/37A	FRED WHITE	81 Peters Road, Locks Heath, Southampton SO31 6EL	01489-584288

WARSASH

plot 30A	KIT COLSON	15 Osborne Road, Warsash, Southampton SO31 9GJ	01489-589648
plot 18A	ERIC ROCK	16 Queen's Road, Warsash, Southampton SO31 9JY	01489-576628

TRADING HUT

SECRETARY

plot 12A, HPR	JIM LETT	23 Cyprus Road, Titchfield Common, Fareham PO14 4JY	01489-573421
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