



DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

I need to start with an apology, not only for the lack of newsletters, but mostly for my poor response times and lack of urgency to enquiries these past 6 months. Unfortunately, back in July, I had a very unexpected death within my close family which took over a large part of both Terry's and my time. I'm happy to say that life is now starting to return to some sense of normality for us both, but we'd never the less like to thank those of you who might have been affected by this for your patience!

Now that's been said, let's fill you in on what's been happening within the Committee since our last newsletter in September. For starters, we'd like to welcome three new members. These are Dixie Inman at Burley Road, Susan Slater at Pillings Road and Sarah Phillips at Willow Crescent. We hope you will all have an enjoyable time with us.

Moving onto our last two meetings; these have been fairly straightforward because of the time of year, so our main focus was on suggestion improvements.

In respect of the roadway and parking improvements, we invited two contractors to quote in relation of all four sites, with each being given a plan of exactly what we wanted. Rob then met with both, on each site, to discuss the individual plans, and quotes have now been received. At our last meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed to accept the lower of the two tenders and, until this weekend, we had hoped that the works would commence during January/February 2020. However, we've just been advised that, due to poor weather, the contractor is running about 2 months behind, but he hopes that all work will be completed by April. Should further rain (or snow) affect this, he has promised that we will still have full access to each site whilst the work is being carried out. We are not sure of the order as yet, but will keep you posted.

We are also looking to erect a new 140 metre fence at Willow Crescent. Jim now has a price for the materials, however a labour cost is still awaited, but hopefully more news will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

The Society has also recently invested in a very good quality secondhand ride on lawn mower, together with a secure shed to house it in. This is now located at Willow Crescent, so if anyone fancies having a go please remember that we are looking for an additional steward on that site!!

On Friday 4th October, we held our annual Presentation Evening. This was the first that Terry and I had attended, and I have to say that we both had an extremely enjoyable evening. Our President, Jeff Dale, and our local Mayor were in attendance to hand out the various trophies and prizes, we had a great buffet supper supplied by Hoagies of Oakham (with no leftovers as in previous years) and Rob organised a quiz with prizes, which was great fun. I think all those who attended would agree that the evening was a great success, despite the Catmose Club not opening their upstairs bar as had been promised! Still, it gave members a chance to get a bit of additional exercise in! The results and photos of the winners who were present are shown below.

As the year draws to a close, everyone is reminded that annual Membership renewals become due on 1st January 2020.



OHGAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting Chairman:	Rob Bowley
Vice Chairman:	Rob Bowley
Treasurer:	David Smith
Secretary:	Penny Paton
Trading Hut Manager:	Dick Gilbert

YOUR STEWARDS

Pillings Road:	Terry Dunlop Vacancy
Burley Road:	Georgina Messenger Vacancy
Elm Close:	Vacancies x 2
Willow Crescent:	Jim Hardwick Vacancy

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1st January 2020 - Membership renewals are due, please make payment by 26th January 2020 at the very latest.

March 2020 - Annual General Meeting, date to be advised in next newsletter.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

CHAIRMAN OR CHAIRWOMAN

We are still looking for a new Chairman or Chairwoman to steer the Committee. Unfortunately it's an unpaid post, but you get the chance to decide upon and implement the long term aims of OHGAS, as well as chairing and co-ordinating the work of the Committee and you get to represent OHGAS to the public, Rutland County Council and Oakham Town Council!

STEWARDS

We're also still looking for two stewards at Elm Close and an additional steward at Willow Crescent and Pillings Road.

If you are interested in filling any of these positions, please let me know.

WE ARE NOW SIX MEMBERS DOWN ON THE COMMITTEE, WITH OVER 165 MEMBERS IN THE SOCIETY, SO IT IS VERY DISAPPOINTING THAT NONE OF YOU SEEM WILLING TO TAKE ON ONE OF THESE IMPORTANT ROLES.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S POSITION, THE STEWARD'S ROLE IS RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND SHOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY TIME CONSUMING.

WITH THE AGM LOOMING IN LESS THAN 3 MONTHS, WE DESPERATELY NEED SOME CANDIDATES!

PLEASE DONT ASSUME THAT THE EXISTING COMMITTEE WILL ALL AGREE TO RE-STAND!!



DECEMBER 2019



Those of you who were present at the Presentation Evening will already be aware that we are now able to accept online payments, however the referencing of this is very important as it will enable David to allocate your payment to you!

For those of you wishing to make payment in this way, the account details are as follows:

Account Name: OHGAS
Sort Code: 30-91-91
Account No: 37273368

In the reference box, which allows for a maximum of 18 characters, you should enter your **SURNAME**, followed by a **UNDERSCORE**, then the **LETTER OF YOUR SITE** (B for Burley, E for Elm, P for Pillings or W for Willow), followed by another **UNDERSCORE**, and then enter your **PLOT NUMBER** (or the lowest plot number if you have multiple plots).

As an example, David rents plot 74 at Willow Crescent so his reference would be:

SmithD_W_74

You will notice that, in David's case, the letter D has been tagged onto Smith to help distinguish him from other Smiths who may be members, this being a particularly common surname. Similarly, if you have a particularly long surname, please abbreviate this to allow space for your site reference and plot number.

Those of you who wish to pay in the normal manner by cash or cheque at the Trading Hut, may continue to do so.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT PAYMENT IS RECEIVED BY SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2020 AT THE VERY LATEST!

As a reminder (although please feel free to double check with me), the costs are as follows:

Full Plot: £16.00 per plot
Half Plot: £ 8.00 per plot
Plus annual subscription fee: £ 7.00 per member

We do have an ever increasing waiting list for plots, so if anyone cannot cope and wishes to downsize, or if you no longer have the time, please let me know ASAP so that some newcomers can have a turn and, just maybe, one of them will be willing to join the Committee haha!!

Finally, I have a plea from Dick. He desperately needs some more volunteers to help man the Trading Hut. If you are able to help out (even if it's only once), please can you get in touch with Dick ASAP (or email me).

On behalf of your Committee, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Penny Paton
OHGAS SECRETARY



OHGAS PRESENTATION EVENING RESULTS:

Best Allotment:

Burley Road: Gordon Cornforth - Winner
Dee Lockner - Runner Up

Elm Close: Brian Lethbridge - Winner
Jim Findlay - Runner Up

Pillings Road: Dave Stewardson - Winner
Bob Kendrick - Runner Up

Willow Crescent: David Kirtland - Winner
Jim Hardwick - Runner Up

The Leslie Stokes Cup: Awarded to the member who has contributed the most help to the Society.

Winner - Bob Kendrick, Pillings Road.

The Jack Ainscough Memorial Trophy: Awarded to the overall Best Allotment winner.

Winner - Dave Stewardson, Pillings Road.

The Oakham Town Council Shield: Awarded to the most improved Council owned allotment.

Winner - Lindy Howard, Willow Crescent.

Scarecrow Competition:

Winners - Olivia, Grace and William Tyler, Burley Road
Runners Up - Josh and Noah, Burley Road



Dee Lockner, Best Allotment Runner Up - Burley Road



Dave Stewardson, Best Allotment Winner - Pillings Road



Bob Kendrick, Best Allotment Runner Up - Pillings Road



David Kirtland, Best Allotment Winner - Willow Crescent



Jim Hardwick, Best Allotment Runner Up - Willow Crescent



Bob Kendrick, Pillings Road - Winner of The Leslie Stokes Cup



Dave Stewardson, Pillings Road - Winner of The Jack Ainscough Memorial Trophy



Lindy Howard, Willow Crescent - Winner of The Oakham Town Council Shield



Olivia, Grace and William Tyler, Burley Road - Winners of the Scarecrow Competition



David Blackwell, Burley Road - Collecting runners up prize on behalf of his Grandson Josh