



OHGAS WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018



Chairman's Report

Welcome to our Winter 2018 newsletter. I would like to say a huge thank you to the Committee who have made a lot of improvements across all sites over the years to help members enjoy their gardens. It is hoped that this will continue by improving all our sites.

As we have running water for the water tanks but no clean water washing facilities, it is hoped that we will install flushing toilets on all three sites, which will be discussed at the AGM.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Martin Duncan
OHGAS Chairman

Plant Cover Crops this Winter!

Cover crops are used to increase soil fertility. They are referred to as "green manure". They are used to manage a range of soil macro and micronutrients. The impact cover crops have on nitrogen management has received the most attention from researchers and farmers because nitrogen is very important and is usually the most limited nutrients in crop production. These crops can be grown now and ploughed back into the soil before reaching maturity, which will increase the soil fertility and quality. This also stops soil erosion and prevents the loss of nutrients during rain. We call this cover crop natural fertiliser replacement and it works extremely well. So if you have any land that you aren't using, simply cover it with a cover crop by scattering the seeds and taping them in with your rake, and then let nature take care of the rest!

Fiona Pearson
Membership Secretary

The Trading Hut

May we remind everyone that the Trading Hut is open every Sunday morning from 9:00 until 10:30. We have a wide variety of fertilisers, compost, netting and gardening goods, all at competitive prices. Presently, Kings Seed catalogues are available, along with seed potato order forms, which should be returned very soon. The Society website has our price lists and the seed potato order form.

Dick Gilbert
Trading Hut Manager

Recent Changes on the Committee

There have been several changes to the Committee since our last Newsletter. Fiona Pearson, who I'm sure most of you will be familiar with, is currently studying for an Open University Degree. To allow her more time to focus on her studies, Fiona has decided to move into the position of Membership Secretary, and I have stepped into her shoes as Secretary.

I'm very new to the whole concept of having an allotment and growing vegetables. My passion, before moving to Oakham almost two years ago, was more into having a perfect garden and, to be perfectly honest, I hate getting my hands too dirty! However, having had free ranging hens (amazingly I still managed to keep the garden looking respectable once I learnt what flowers they didn't like to eat), allotment ownership became a whole lot more appealing as it meant I could keep hens again. You'll find us all on Pillings Road, bottom left, first plot (look for hens)!

On behalf of all the Committee and Stewards, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Here's to a fruitful 2019!

Penny Paton
OHGAS Secretary

Finally a few Christmassy Dates

Stamford Christmas Festival and Lights Switch On - Sunday 25th November 2018
Uppingham Christmas Market - Thursday 6th December 2018 from 17:30 to 21:00
Christmas Fine Food Market and Fair at Burghley House - 6th to 9th December 2018
Oakham Late Night Shopping - Monday 10th December 2018 from 16:00 to 21:00
Christmas at Oakham Castle - 22nd/23rd December 2018
Gates Garden Centre - Christmas doors open now!



OHGAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman:	Martin Duncan
Vice Chairman:	Rob Bowley
Treasurer:	David Smith
Secretary:	Penny Paton
Membership Secretary:	Fiona Pearson
Trading Hut Manager:	Dick Gilbert

YOUR STEWARDS

Pillings Road:	Nathan Ticehurst Tracey White
Burley Road:	Georgina Messenger Alan Cunningham
Elms Close:	Brian Lethbridge Jim Findley
Willow Crescent:	Vacancies

Scarecrow Competition

Due to the success of this Summer's Scarecrow Competition, the Committee have decided to organise another competition next Summer (further details will follow in the Spring).



Membership Subscriptions

All Members are reminded that their membership subscriptions and rents are due to be paid on the first Sunday in January 2019. These should be paid in at The Trading Hut on the Pillings Road site.

OHGAS's Online Presence

Please remember that The Society has a 'members only' Facebook page called Oakham Allotment Community/Friends where you can share or exchange hints and tips with other allotmenters.

We also have a website which is currently in the progress of being re-arranged. If you have any comments about the new layout or you think that anything is missing or needs changing, please let me know.

Penny Paton
OHGAS Secretary

Date for Your Diary

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 8th March 2019 at 19:30 in The Catmose Club, 27 South Street, Oakham. This is your opportunity to have your say, so we would urge you all to attend.