

# Eynsham Allotment Association

## Annual Report - October 2016

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**Dear Plotholders**, welcome to your 2016 annual report. As requested at last year's AGM we are circulating this in advance of the meeting. Anyway straight to our top project this year.

**Deer Fencing:** This has been a big year with the hope that, as the year closes we do indeed get our deer fencing installed. As you all should know, this is being mostly funded by the **Tesco 5p #BagsOfHelp** donation scheme where we have won an award of **£10,000**. Normally we could never envisage a project this size since our normal income is committed each year to leave our bank balance fairly stable. As I write this report we are still awaiting to agree the final fencing contract. When that is agreed and we know contract dates signs will be put up on notice boards.

Thank you to those who have helped **working parties** through the year. Simply put, without your efforts the deer project would have stalled due to seriously increased costs.

**Rent:** As of last year, each plotholder gets a letter before the AGM indicating the exact rent they will be charged. This year we have raised the rent by £2 for a full plot, and £1 otherwise. We think this is well below what many other allotments charge and continues to represent excellent value.

We are giving notice that may increase the rent next year instead of our usual biennial increase. This is to ensure our bank balance recovers after the deer fencing project has been completed.

**Best Kept Plot Competition:** The results are:

- **First place:** F&J Skipwith, Field 2 plots 19 and 21
- **Second Place:** H Horner, Field 2 plots 14, 10a and 12a
- **Third Place:** B Pitcher, Field 2 plot 23
- **Highly Commended:** T&H Jordan, R&M Wayne Smith, W Williams, F Brewer, B Payton,
- **Commended:** MM Wright, M Payton, J Ormrod, K&K Webb, P&A Smith

Any teething issues of last year's judging scheme have settled down and this year it seems to have run very smoothly.

**Insurance:** As requested at last year's AGM we now have employer's liability insurance as well as public indemnity. This has been done through affiliating with the RHS to help keep costs down.

**Your Committee:** The committee have offered to stand again, however we need new people with plenty of enthusiasm. The committee generally meets once a month at 7.45pm for an hour, with rotating days so everyone can get to some of the meetings! So can you give up an hour each month? If you have questions please

**Some Statistics:** Hopefully these may interest you. The number of plotholders is 117 and the number of plots is 141. Only 41 plots are full-size. There are roughly 39.58% plotholders (& sharers) who are retired. There are still 25 plotholders who do not have email and so for these people we drop round printouts whenever possible. The facebook group has now 32 members.

Andy Swarbrick, Chair