



Report on the 2013 Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Longcroft Allotment Association was held on Monday 4 March 2013 at St Francis Church Hall. Along with committee members, 28 member of the Association attended.

Committee. The following were elected to the committee:

Paul Canter	(Chairman)
Stephen Brown	(Membership Secretary)
Roger Edgson	(Rainwater Harvesting)
Don Fisher	(Letting Secretary)
Les Fry	(Broadwater representative)
Kim Haynes	(Broadwater representative)

Helen McLean	(Digswell site inspector)
Kathleen Monk	(Broadwater site inspector)
Tony Ridler	(Treasurer)
David Rogers	(Distribution Shed Manager)
June Tomlin	(Secretary)

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The chairman reported the sad news that two of our well known members died during the year. Ken Cox, who was a familiar figure at the Digswell site, and Herbert Goacher who provided us with a much valued service of repairing equipment for the Association until a lot of his tools were stolen from the Digswell site where he carried out his work. Both of them are much missed and our sympathies lie with their families.

A copy of the minutes of the meeting is attached with this Newsletter.

Your Association needs you

Without the hard work of volunteers:

- the shed wouldn't open
- we wouldn't be able to take deliveries of stock
- repairs and maintenance wouldn't get done
- links with the council wouldn't be maintained
- the water tanks wouldn't be cleaned and ready for use in the spring
- the boundaries wouldn't be kept secure
- the compost heap wouldn't be maintained
- the mowers wouldn't be repaired and serviced
- the membership and waiting lists wouldn't be kept up to date

A lot goes on to keep the allotment running, and it is all done by volunteers from among the Association members. But, we're always on the lookout for new volunteers to help with all the various tasks that need to be done.

The more people that are involved, the less the burden is on any one person. So, we're looking for new volunteers to help us with these and other tasks.

If you are willing to volunteer, even if it is only for an hour every so often, please contact Stephen Brown (contact details below).

Stephen Brown
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We look forward to hearing from you!

Key dates

Sunday 18 August 2013

Summer picnic – Digswell site

Monday 3 March 2014

Annual General Meeting

New members

There have been a number of new members on both sites and a list is provided below.

Broadwater

B6 Steven Moate
B12 Tom Stallard
B25 Karen Johnstone
B43 Susan Jones

Digswell

D112 Ruth Powell
D123 Mike Beckett
D127 Janet Hunt
D138 Janette Legg
D147 Sue Ayalon
D173 Louisa Dommett

Best wishes to all our new members for an enjoyable and productive time on their plots.

Housekeeping

Mowing

The mowers are provided to help members keep their plots tidy. It's important that they are kept in good condition and they should only be used for mowing grassed areas and should **NEVER** be used on growing areas. The mowers are one of the main items of expenditure for the Committee and keeping them in good conditions is in everyone's interest. If we have to constantly spend money on replacing mowers, then there is less money to spend on other member benefits.

Think of them as your own mowers - if you wouldn't treat them like that at home, then you shouldn't at the allotment either!

Padlock combination

It's important to ensure that the padlock combination is kept secure. So, the basic principle is:

If you are the first person to open the gate or the last to leave, ensure that you don't leave the padlock with the combination showing. If you open the padlock, change the combination. If you close the padlock, change it once you've locked the gate.

Shed opening hours

Just a reminder that the shed opening hours are Sundays from 11.00am to 12.30pm, from the end of February to the end of September.

How big is a plot?

Every year, you receive an invoice for your plot, calculated as an amount per pole. But how many of us actually know what a pole is?

Allotments are traditionally measured in rods or poles (they're the same thing), which is an old Anglo-Saxon unit named because it was the length of the rod used to control a team of eight oxen, which was about 5.5 yards in length. A pole has now come to mean an area rather than length and is a measure of area equal to 5.5 yards by 5.5 yards, or 30.25 square yards. Most of the plots on the Digswell and Broadwater sites are 5 and 7 pole plots, and so are about 150 square yards or 212 square yards respectively.

If you have any news items, features, recipes or photographs that you would like to submit for future issues of the Newsletter, please contact Stephen Brown, newsletter editor:

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