

Trap Ground Allotment Association
Annual General Meeting 2008.

St Margaret's Institute, Tuesday 18th March at 7.45pm.

Committee Members Present: Tony Hollander [Chairman], John Porter [Treasurer], Vibeke Mannion [Letting Secretary].

There were 24 members present.

Apologies from: Carol and Peter Jarvis, Sally and Neil MacLennan, Kate and Alastair Lack, and Stuart Skyte.

Minutes of the 2007 AGM: These were distributed and approved.

Matters Arising: (i) The City Council was awaiting a decision from DEFRA about their bid to fund further soil analysis.

(ii) Katie Baxendale's suggestion that soil analysis information be given to newcomers has been incorporated into the new Welcome Pack.

(iii) The western willows had been pollarded and the northern ones trimmed by the city council.

(iv) The pond had been cleared of excess vegetation in the autumn, and twelve bamboos donated by Bryan Wardley planted in the adjoining wild area as a refuge for amphibians.

(v) The city council had delivered soil to plots 65 and 99.

(vi) Members were told of the sudden, sad death of Klaus Kaye who had done much to support the TGAA in working parties and maintenance of machinery. John Ashby had kindly offered to look after machinery and had installed racks and shelves in the main shed.

(vii) The container shed was in place and running successfully as a shop.

(viii) Maps of the new access proposals around the land triangle given to Phil & Jim school were displayed and passed round.

(ix) Eight cherished but unsold copies of the Recipe Book were given to Vibeke for sale in the shop.

(x) The website was established and well used.

Reports:

Chairman's:

(a) Access: Phil & Jim, having been given approval for a permanent school role of 375 and temporary role of 420 [to 2011], had been allocated the "southern triangle" of land by the city council with the understanding that TGAA access be incorporated along the southern and western boundaries allowing vehicles to reach the car park. The maps and plans were discussed.

(b) Security: The city council's imminent expenditure of £30,000 on gates and fencing was to be discussed with officers at an on-site meeting on Thursday 20th March. Much discussion to ensure effective protection against badgers, rabbits and deer, prevention of trespass, theft and vandalism, and reasonable access through the proposed school triangle ensued, and essential points were listed for consideration at the meeting with advisory officers.

- (c) Railway: Network Rail had repaired the eastern boundary with new posts and wires and some tree surgery. From council records we had been reminded of their preference to close level crossings, an objective we had repeatedly opposed for our access, with support from the city council's Executive Board of elected members. People were asked not to tie gates open and to observe safe crossing procedure.
- (d) Site: Members renting plots in the NE had been allocated new ones not subject to repeated and prolonged flooding. The vacated area is to be offered as a place for bonfires, particularly to those who rent half plots and are short of space. We are asked to refrain from dumping waste material along site boundaries where it can encourage rabbits and other unwanted wild life.
- (e) Working Party: The 20 tons of hardcore had been distributed by JCB and then covered with soil and seeded with grass. Uneven and rutted paths were levelled with turves and the shop approach paved. Some of this was done as paid work by Larry George who can be employed for a day's work by contacting the Chairman.
- (f) Sheds: A group has produced an advisory note on type, size, siting and security. Three sheds have been burnt down this year and steel lockers might be more suitable for tools. Information will be placed on the website.

(g) Social: Peter and Carol Jarvis were thanked for their work in raising £600 from the Plant Sale. Everyone is asked to contribute plants for next May's sale [date to be announced], all items having been sold by lunch time last year.

Stuart and Gillian Skyte were thanked for organising the Summer Picnic and the Harvest Supper. The poorer attendance at the former led to the suggestion that we have a later event [6 to 8pm] with drinks, pond dipping [for wildlife], and a simple barbecue.

Treasurer's:

Analysis of this year's receipts and payments, and comparison with last year's accounts showed a steady and secure credit balance. The capital outlay to equip the shop was rapidly being paid back by sales. The choice and quantity of goods seemed to be matching popular demand and ensuring finances are stable.

Genefer Clarke had thoroughly audited the accounts and was thanked for this work she has been undertaking for several years.

Lettings Secretary's:

174 plots and half plots are let to 147 tenants. This year 27 new people had joined and 8 had moved from one plot to another. The waiting list had reduced to 3, prospective tenants having found allotments in neighbouring sites in the district.

The new classification of quality was as follows: Good 62%, Average 15%, Poor 15%, Very Poor 8%, Wilderness 0%.

Anxious members who enquired, were reassured that their plots had been charitably assessed.

Website:

Jonathan Clark explained that the site was designed so that constant updating would not be necessary but latest news could be included as needed. He and Stuart Skyte had kept it up-to-date with articles and photographs. Usage was not massive, but had been steady.

Election of Committee:

The Committee was re-elected unanimously, proposed by Genefer Clarke and seconded by Stella Boswell.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.