

Fairview Allotments Association

Annual report for AGM 2014

Dear Fairview Association members

As predicted (!) one year ago, 2013 turned out to be a more productive growing year. However, I doubt the committee can take any credit for this.

Committee

The committee has met 4 times since the last AGM and your Chair has represented FAA at one of the Oxford and District Allotments Federation meetings (3/year). One of the items that is of great concern to all sites with OCC as their landlord is the question of the rent review. The lower limit of rent rise may be linked to inflation but there is also the possibility of a radical revision of allotment costs. This may result in rents several times larger than at present.

Litter pick

We had another successful litter pick in 2013, which provided an opportunity to clear the site and surrounding areas of about a dozen bags of rubbish. Fly-tipping by the gate and hedge in Town Furze (road) is still a problem. However, there have been no incidents since the warning signs went up in November.

Biodiversity

This year we counted 10 brown hairstreak eggs (a particularly endangered butterfly) on the blackthorn trees. As usual, these sightings have been reported to TVERC. Muntjac deer and pheasants are less popular with members since they can damage crops. However, simple mesh netting has proved an effective way of protecting a pumpkin crop.

Risk Assessment

The annual risk assessment took place recently. The results are published on the website and notice board.

Ground cover

A roll of woven ground cover was purchased for the association and distributed to interested members. These are on loan and remain the property of the association.

Membership

There were 3 resignations in 2013 and 2 members gave up half their plots. We welcomed 5 new members. Total membership is 27.

Compost and muck

Due to members complaints about the quality of the compost delivered by the council in 2012 we did not place an order in 2013. However, 10 members shared the cost of a delivery of cow muck in December 2013.

As ever, best wishes for a productive 2014.

On behalf of Fairview Allotments Association Committee
February 2014