



SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Hi everyone, sorry that we've been silent for about 2 months, but as we are currently running the Committee on very depleted numbers and with holiday commitments, there weren't enough of us available to make it worth holding a meeting. However, we are now back and fully functioning, albeit still 5 people down.

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new members. These are Rob and Michelle Lewin at Willow, Rory Denman at Elm (apologies Rory, you should have been included on our last newsletter), Allison Peat at Burley and Lerryn and Alex Miodrag at Pillings. We hope you enjoy your allotment experience with us.

At this month's meeting, we decided that we are going to continue with the Autumn Presentation Evening this year. At the AGM, a lot of you asked us to do this and we are very happy to do so. We also tackled improvement projects planned for the Autumn/Winter. Rob Bowley, our Acting Chairman, summed up the discussion as follows:

The committee took the important decision in principle, to allocate capital funds (including money received in compensation for Brooke Road) for maintenance and improvements to roadways and car parks at Pillings Road, Burley Road, Elm Close and Willow Crescent. The work is necessary, and in some cases overdue, to improve members' access to sites and to the trading hut. We would have liked to do the work ourselves, but it is way beyond the capabilities of the committee and our enthusiastic but dwindling group of volunteers. We will, therefore, seek quotations for the various options. As we are improving existing facilities it is within the committee's remit to authorise spending. It is also within the terms of how we said Brooke Road money should be spent. Having said that, we are anxious that members are kept informed and, as always, we would welcome your comments and suggestions.

I know from messages that I've received in the past, that these improvements will be music to the ears of many of our members and since Tuesday's meeting, Rob has already met with a ground working contractor at Willow, and has also talked about Pillings and Burley to set out our requirements. The first quotes are now awaited. Hopefully it won't be too long before we all start to benefit from the results.

In June's newsletter, we mentioned the dyke work at Pillings, which Bob Kendrick will be carrying out for us during the Autumn. The additional water point we mentioned, for the benefit of those of us at the bottom end of this site, will also be added at the same time.

Now for an apology. In our last newsletter, I said that rubbish bins would be trialed at Willow and Pillings, but somehow this got overlooked! Bins will be appearing imminently for your use and, as advised previously, if this works we will be doing the same at Burley and Elm.

The Leslie Stokes Cup 1956 is now back with us and is sitting here in my office. If any of our longer serving members have any information about this cup, which was last won by Mrs V. Allsopp in 1997, we would be interested to hear about it as none of the current Committee know anything about its history. It has been decided that this cup will be awarded to the person who the Committee consider has contributed the most help to the Society during the year and it will be presented at the forthcoming Presentation Evening, along with the awards to recent winners of our Best Allotment Competition and also the Scarecrow Competition. We hope to see as many of you there as is possible and full details will follow, hopefully, later next week.

We hope you've all had a good Summer and that you're having a successful harvest!

Penny Paton
OHGAS SECRETARY

OHGAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting Chairman:	Rob Bowley
Vice Chairman:	Rob Bowley
Treasurer:	David Smith
Secretary:	Penny Paton
Trading Hut Manager:	Dick Gilbert

YOUR STEWARDS

Pillings Road:	Nathan Ticehurst Terry Dunlop
Burley Road:	Georgina Messenger Vacancy
Elms Close:	Vacancies x 2
Willow Crescent:	Jim Hardwick Vacancy

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Our annual PRESENTATION EVENING will be happening on a Friday evening during October. This will be a purely social event, with a finger buffet and quiz, and obviously the bar will be open for us. Full details will be circulated early in September.

If you are one of last year's winners, could you please return your trophy to the Trading Hut at your earliest possible opportunity so that we can get them off to the engravers ready for this year's winners.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

CHAIRMAN OR CHAIRWOMAN

We are still looking for a new Chairman or Chairwoman to steer the Committee. Unfortunately it's an unpaid post, but you get the chance to decide upon and implement the long term aims of OHGAS, as well as chairing and co-ordinating the work of the Committee and you get to represent OHGAS to the public, Rutland County Council and Oakham Town Council!

STEWARDS

We're also still looking for two stewards at Elm Close and an additional steward at Willow Crescent.

If you are interested in filling any of these positions, please let me know.

WE ARE FIVE MEMBERS DOWN ON THE COMMITTEE, WITH 165 MEMBERS IN THE SOCIETY, SOMEONE OUT THERE MUST WANT TO STEP UP AND HELP US?!