



HISTORY OF CAPEL ST MARY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Charles Heath

ABSTRACT

The statutory allotment site is owned by the Capel St Mary Parish Council and managed on a day-to-day basis by the Allotments Association. This document provides a short history of the association from its inception to the current date.

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History of Capel St Mary Allotments Association

By Charles Heath, chairman

2017

Quote from Colin Hurcombe, Parish Council Chairman 1986 to 1990*

“Perhaps the most lasting and pleasurable moment for me as chairman was the annual tour of the village allotment area. One would arrive on a very pleasant summer evening to be met by members of the Allotments Committee, who with intense pride, would proudly boast of their work and conduct the tour of what could only be described as their immaculate allotments created with hard work, loving care and total commitment.”

* Source – The Book of Capel – Centenary of Capel St Mary Parish Council - 1894-1994

Introduction

In March 1976 Capel St Mary Parish Council purchased 5.8 acres of land along Pound Lane. The land was purchased from Tollemache & Cobbold Breweries Limited. However, prior to the purchase, planning permission was granted by Babergh District Council to the Parish Council to change the use of agricultural land to allotment gardens in August 1975.

The 5.8 acre plot was purchased for £3,500 with a mortgage and the rent fixed initially at £20 per 10 rod plot and was the amount calculated to enable repayment of the mortgage over a 20 year period. Repayment was set at £969.84 per year payable in two instalments of £484.92 in April and November each year. As can be seen in the summaries below this was subsequently found to be illegal.

Interestingly, almost opposite the allotments on the other side of Pound Lane towards the church is the former Kings Head public house owned by Tollemache & Cobbold Breweries which was built in 1878 and converted in 1969 to a private residence named Ashpound Cottage.

Initial expenditure by the Parish Council was as follows:

Item	Expenditure
Land	£3,500.25
Legal charges	£110.63
Ploughing	£221.40
Car Park	£791.08
Fencing	£897.71
Equipment Hut	£614.82
Water supply	£850.00
Water meter	£132.00
Taps	£80.00
Ipswich Plant Hire	£126.36
Rotovator and spares	£370.00
Stationery	£97.05
Sundries	£69.38
Total	£7,860.68

The recorded rents received in the first three years are:

Year	Rent
1977	£205.00
1978	£701.25
1979	£77.50

From the amounts received it would suggest that only 10 plots at £20 per plot were let in 1977 and 35 plots at £20 per plot in 1978. The amount collected in 1979 is low because of the refunds given due to the rents being reduced from £20 to £10 per plot. In 1980 plot rental was further reduced to £5 per 10 rod plot.

The initial plot holders formed Capel St Mary Allotments Association in February 1977 with the view to assisting and to liaise with the Parish Council in all matters to do with allotments.

About Us

The Allotments Association manages the site on behalf of the Parish Council. The Association treasurer prepares the Management Committee budget. The Association collects the plot rentals.

The maintenance of the site is carried out by the Allotments Association. The Site Manager organises the maintenance and improvements on site and is helped by two work-ins held spring and autumn attended by volunteer plot holders.

The site is 5.8 acres and has 80 plot holders renting a mix of half and full plots all accessible by tractor paths and with easy access to water.

A poly tunnel provides space for 24 poly tunnel plot holders. A toilet is on site.

The site has an electricity supply to the trading hut, poly tunnel, BBQ area and toilet.

A trading "Hut" is run by the Stores Manager and stocks a range of 230 products all at trade prices plus a nominal mark up.

The Seed Scheme Manager organises the NSALG/Kings discounted seed scheme.

The Show Secretary organises the Annual Flower and Produce Show held over the first full weekend in September. Entries normally reach over 600 exhibits over 120 different classes. This has become one of the highlights of the Association year and is seen as a major village event for Capel and has grown to be one of the major shows in the area.

An annual BBQ is held in July normally attended by 100 members and friends.

Membership of the Association cost £5 and is open to anyone whether they have a plot or not. Membership usually stands at around 350 members.

The Association is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and in the past exhibited at the 1999 Chelsea Flower Show and a year later at the Hampton Court Flower Show and was awarded a Bronze medal.

In 2006 one of our plot holders was placed second in the Gardening News National Allotment competition. Also, in 2006 the Association was awarded a Webmasters Certificate from One Suffolk for the website.

The General Secretary represents Capel Allotments at the Suffolk Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardens (SSALG). The SSALG is the Suffolk County organisation of the National Society of Allotments (NAS). All members are affiliated to the NAS taking £3 from our annual subscription of £5.

Over the years the Association has helped finance horticultural machinery for use on site from profits from the trading hut. A rotovator and cultivator are available for hire. Small petrol mowers are available for cutting grass paths between plots. Strimmers and a ride on mower are used by suitably trained volunteers to maintain the tractor paths and grassed areas.

Current (2022) plot rental is £30 for a full 10 rod plot. Only half plots are let for £18.50. If a plot holder attends a “work-in” a £7 rebate is given. Work-ins are held twice a year, Spring and Autumn when volunteer plot holders carry out site maintenance jobs under the guidance of the Site Manager.

In 2009 the Association commenced the development of a nature area. This has now developed into a delightful area with a pond and many shrubs, plants and bulbs. Information boards around the site give information on pond life, insects and butterflies etc. Many local organisations have visited the wildlife area including many youngsters as well as art groups.

The general committee meet 6 times a year whilst the executive committee meets 2 times a year. A whole range of topics are discussed about the running of the allotment site including administration and legal responsibilities of the committee. The Executive Committee also meet twice a year with the Parish Council Allotment Management Committee (April including a site visit, and October)

The AGM is held in April on site in the poly tunnel at 12 noon after a mornings work-in.

Major Milestones

Major milestones in the history of the Capel St Mary Allotments Association:

1976 to 1979

- March 1976 Parish Council purchases 5.8 acres of land.
- 2nd February 1977 – First recorded Committee meeting.
- Annual subscription agreed at 25p.
- Rent for a full plot was £20. (*cost of rental considered too high*).
- Local scouts were offered £5 to pull up weeds from the whole site! (*surely not, slave labour!*).
- August 1977 - First Best Kept Allotment competition – prize bottle of whisky.
- Joined the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardens (NSALG) (20p per member).
- Rent reduced to £10.
- September 1978 – First Flower and Produce Show held at the village primary school.
- Stores hut opens.
- 1978 – Water installed on site.
- 1979 – Allotment Management Committee formed.
- Rotovator purchased.
- 1979 – Annual subscription raised to 70p.
- Mr Roger Pearce appointed President in March 1979.

1980 to 1983

- Rent reduced to £5 in 1980.
- January 1981 - A £270 loan from the Management Committee agreed for the purchase of Hut stock.
- 1981 – Annual subscription raised to 80p.
- A request was made for a toilet on site (1981). (*A toilet was installed in 2000*).
- September 1981 – Affiliated to the RHS.

- Joined the NSALG seed scheme.
- First formal work-in established.
- 1982 Show held at village hall.
- March 1983 – new constitution approved. Establishment of an Executive Committee.
- Association membership reaches 93 members in 1983 compared with 40 in 1982. (*In 2017 membership is 350*).
- March 1983. All plots now let. Waiting list established.
- Concern about unworked plots.
- Changes at the NSALG had made the Association question the value of being a member.

1984 to 1986

- 1984 Flower and Produce show held at ByPass Nurseries and extended to a 2 day event.
- 63 members attend the 1985 AGM at the ByPass Nurseries.
- 1985 the post of Site Manager created.
- Membership reaches 136.
- Graham Whybrow appointed Stores Manager.
- First version of the scarecrow logo appears on “The Hut” price list.
- The 1986 show held in marquee at the Bypass Nurseries site.
- Major Fenwick appointed President.
- Gordon Mott appointed Site Manager.
- 1986 Hut sales including seed scheme reach £3,055.

1987 to 1990

- In 1988 a trip to RHS Wisley was enjoyed by 50 members.
- 1989 Show held in village hall (571 entries by 74 people).
- Celia Waters appointed Show Secretary.
- Additional sales hut erected.
- Abe Hall stands down as General Secretary after 6 years.

- With a contribution from the Association the car park is to be re-surfaced.
- In 1990 members enjoyed a visit to Kings of Kelvedon seed merchants.

1991 to 1993

- 1991 annual show filmed by a TV company (*nothing came of it, suspect it ended up on the cutting room floor!*).
- 1992 show attracted 596 entries.
- Allotment site featured on Delia Smith's TV programme.
- Mick Webb appointed General Secretary.
- Many plots remain vacant. A proposal to grow Christmas trees was considered. (*An upturn in interest of plots curtailed any plans to grow trees*).

1994 to 1997

- 1994 and 1995 shows held at ByPass Nurseries.
- Photography section introduced at the Show.
- 1996 Show back at the village hall.
- New ride on mower supplied by Parish Council for use in maintaining site.
- Attendance at 1997 Show down due to funeral of Diana Princess of Wales held on the same day.
- A new members pack introduced to give new members information about the Association.

1998 to 1999

- A photocopier purchased.
- Graham Whybrow starts a series of articles for Capel Capers.
- A flyer was produced to promote the allotment plots.
- The Show schedule now included metric measurements as well as imperial.
- New rotovator, cultivator and wheeled strimmer purchased.
- Keith Bright creates a web site for the Association.
- 1999 Revised constitution and rule book to be presented at next AGM.

- Show featured in local press and journalist from the Kitchen Garden magazine writes a feature about the show (*a 6 page article appears in 2001*).
- Association exhibits at Chelsea Flower Show.

The start of a new millennium 2000 to 2004

- In 2000 excessive rain floods car park and many plots.
- Our Millennium project came to fruition – an on site toilet.
- Parish Council Chairman Gerald White formally opens the toilet with guest Colin Nickerson from the NSALG.
- Members of the Association together with Parish Council Chairman interviewed on the allotment site for Radio Suffolk.
- Our exhibit at the 2000 Hampton Court Flower show wins Bronze Medal.
- Mr Haynes from Kings Seeds gives talk at AGM.
- Dennis Ross retires as Site Manager and Keith Bright takes over role.
- Generator purchased to provide electricity to sales hut.
- Geoff Cox appointed Treasurer in place of Eric Catchpole.
- 2002 Show was our Silver Jubilee year.
- Two new cups for the Show. The Eric King Memorial Cup and the Andrew Tokely Cup.
- Lesley Dolphin of Radio Suffolk reports on progress of Andrew Tokely's leeks from planting to winning first prize.
- New Honda rotovator purchased.
- Bunkers built around site to hold surplus mushroom compost.
- Poly tunnel built providing 24 plots available to rent.

2005 to 2008

- 2005 Show held in marquee on the playing field giving the Show a real "country feel".
- A feature about Capel Allotments appeared in the Lets Talk magazine.
- South Suffolk MP Tim Yeo visits Capel Allotments site.
- Trip to Bressingham.

- Steve Baker invited to become President in 2006.
- Colin Rose stands down as Site Manager and Clive Newby takes over.
- Work starts on the wild life area.
- Show attracts 697 entries in 2008.

2009 to 2011

- Allotment site open for St. Elizabeth Hospice open gardens.
- New Show cup in memory of Colin Hurcombe.
- Membership reaches 380.
- 1400 bulbs planted in wild life area.
- A second poly tunnel erected.
- Scarecrow competition held.
- Karen Kenny (NSALG) and Derrick Holder (SSALG) attend the AGM.

2012 to 2013

- 2012 Show is filmed and a DVD produced by Darius Laws and Nick Woolgar with the Premier shown at Ipswich film theatre.
- President of the International Office of Allotment Gardeners visits Capel Allotments.
- Original green cover on poly tunnel shredded by high winter winds.
- Replacement cover fitted in the spring but this cover was later ripped by hurricane force winds.
- New cover for poly tunnel financed by insurance claim.
- After 25 years service Mick Webb stands down from Committee and Philippa Brandon takes role of General Secretary.
- Subscriptions raised to £5.
- Electricity supply connected to site thanks to the expertise of Dennis Smith.
- Plot rental agreements and local rules reviewed and incorporated into the Parish Council Allotments Management Committee standing orders.

2014 to 2015

- Dennis Smith takes over from Clive Newby as Site Manager.

- New brick BBQ built ready for the 2014 BBQ.
- Several new water tanks installed on Site.
- The Association together with the SSALG wins Silver Gilt Award at the 2015 Suffolk Show.
- Charles Heath retires as Show Secretary after 23 years and Wendy Russell takes over.

2016

- 2016 plot rentals increased to £26 for a full plot.
- The Association together with the SSALG wins Gold medal at the 2016 Suffolk Show.
- Special display board and bunting was displayed at entrance of allotment site in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday
- Hut sales with seed scheme reach a record of £15,929
- Hut stocks a range of 230 items.
- Martin Dowsett joins committee as IT Manager.
- Sales hut extended to accommodate rolls of fleece and netting.

2017

- Association reaches its 40th anniversary.
- Presentation to 4 plot holders who have had their plots since 1977 these were Ian Fraser, Charles Heath, Colin Osborne and Malcolm Fenn
- Display of 600 photos to celebrate our 40 years shown at the BBQ, Fun Day and at the AGM
- New computerised ordering system adopted for the Kings seed scheme
- Ian Fraser retires from the committee after 37 years and Phil Hickley takes over the running of the seed scheme
- The Association together with the SSALG wins Gold medal and Best in Show at the 2017 Suffolk Show.
- New computer system used to run the 40th Flower and Produce Show.

2018 to 2019

- The year of the long hot summer
- 10 week period without rain
- Take part in the village scarecrow trail
- Annual Show buoyant with pictures in NAS magazine
- Several promotion events including leaflets to new houses
- Pond dipping by youngsters in the wildlife area.
- Committee approves idea for a meeting room on site.
- Planning permission applied for and granted
- Old horse box purchased and renovated
- Website refreshed
- Facebook page launched
- Heavy attack of potato blight
- Wettest BBQ on record
- Horse box converted to a bar and named “Scarecrow Tavern”
- Theft of machinery from site
- New replacement equipment purchased
- Presentation to Show judge Dennis Page
- New banners to promote Show
- Application for grant from NAS Trust submitted.
- This history of Capel Allotments sent to Suffolk Records Office

March 2020 to March 2021

- A pandemic (COVID) changed all our lives.
- The Site remained open as a place of refuge during the enforced lockdowns.
- There were record orders for seeds and potatoes and sales at the Hut.
- The 43rd Show was cancelled.
- We received a “Covid” government grant of £10,000 which financed the building of meeting room (Plotters’ Retreat).
- The poly tunnel suffered storm damage and was extended and repaired.
- A new system for the collection of plot rental and subscriptions was introduced.
- Committee meetings were held using “WhatsApp”

March 2021 to March 2022

- Many “COVID” restrictions remain in place for 2021.
- The very sad news of Graham Whybrow’s death in May 2021

- We were all deeply shocked by the sudden passing of Graham who joined the committee in 1981 and became Stores Manager in 1986. He will be greatly missed. A tree was planted in the wild life area in memory of Graham.
- Plot rentals increased to £30.00 with £18.50 for a half plot and £12.00 poly tunnel plot with a £7.00 rebate for attending a work-in.
- The meeting room named the Plotters' Retreat was formally opened by our President Steve Baker.
- Martin Leech was appointed Site Manager whilst Dennis after 7 years takes over as Stores Manager.
- Philippa retires as General Secretary and Tara Smith takes over the role and Robert Birnie joins the committee.
- Our 'mower man' retires from the committee after 14 years.

Extract From Minutes

The above are the major milestones in the history of Capel St Mary Allotments Association. For more detail I have briefly extracted some of the significant items as noted in the minutes of the general committee meetings, the annual general meetings and the executive committee meetings.

The first record that I can find about the Capel St Mary Allotments Association is in a minute book passed to me by our former General Secretary Mick Webb who has carefully retained most of these old documents from which I will attempt to extract some of the milestones of the Association.

I have included quite a lot of detail from the early meetings as this included the setting up of the Association and the work to establish the allotments.

A complete list of committee members and their positions held on the committee since 1977 to 2017 is an appendix to this document.

2nd February 1977

The first entry in the minute book is a meeting held at 8 Penn Close and attended by:

Mr D Edwards (Chairman)

Mr D Ruddock (Secretary)

Mr M France (Treasurer)

Mrs D Jones

Miss E Thurston

Mr R Biden

Mr D Richardson

Mr R Talbot

With apologies from Mr G Mott

Subjects discussed included contacting the Parish Council to request a revision of the proposed layout of the allotment field in Pound Lane, presentation of a set of rules for the allotments to be discussed at the next meeting and the need for a “terms of reference/constitution” to be sought from the Parish Council.

An annual subscription to the Association was proposed at 25p.

10th February 1977

This meeting held only a week later discussed a letter from Councillor Wall regarding the layout of the allotment field which was then adopted. Provision of water was to be discussed with the Parish Council.

21st March 1977

In addition to the members mentioned above Mr R Harrison appears to have now joined the committee.

Correspondence between the Chairman and Councillor Lodge were read out and agreed. (The minutes do not indicate what this correspondence was about). Other items discussed were the allocation of half plots, and the preparation of a constitution by Mr D Richardson. The subject of collection of rents was to be brought up at a meeting between the Chairman and Councillor Lodge.

23rd May 1977

An estimate of £670 for the supply of water on site had been received. This was to include six taps and tanks. The Scouts were to be paid £5 to pull up all the weeds on site and to bring their own tools.

22nd August 1977

A motion was raised about approaching the Parish Council to decrease the rents. Mr R Biden reluctantly resigned from the committee. 100 membership cards ordered.

3rd October 1977

Mr T Richardson co-opted onto the committee. The Parish Council were discussing access routes for the water supply with Anglian Water. The Parish council had also agreed to collect the plot rentals.

Rent was £20 for a full plot and £15 if a second was taken. At present there was no planning permission for individual sheds to be erected.

28th November 1977

Water supply was to be by access across land to the east of the allotment field. The committee agreed that the Association should join the NSALG at 20p per member. It was agreed to organise a produce show for 1978 to be held in the local primary school.

16th January 1978

Seed orders taken to the value of £87.67

6th March 1978 AGM

25 members attended. Reports given at the AGM summarised the year's progress. No water supply on site as yet. Allotment hut finished. A Best Kept Allotment competition had been held but was considered not very satisfactory. The winner was Mr D Edwards for plot 41.

There was some friction between the Association and Parish Council regarding lack of water supply.

Members also felt the £20 plot rental was too high. It was agreed that the Association should collect the rents instead of the Parish Council. Councillor Lodge was thanked for all the work he had done regarding the allotments.

Election of officers and committee was as follows:

Mr D Edwards (Chairman)

Mr T Richardson (Secretary)

Mr M France (Treasurer)

Mr G Mott (Sales Hut)

Mrs D Mitchinson

Mrs D Jones

Mrs M Shead

Miss E Thurston

Mr R Harrison

Mr T Webber

Mr R Leeks

An Auditor was appointed – Mr M Fenn. (*Malcolm is still our auditor*)

10th April 1978

The much needed water supply now being installed. There was no up to date record of plot holders. It was agreed to write to the NSALG regarding the £20 plot rental. Mr Pearce was to be contacted to plough some of the vacant plots. The Sales Hut was completed.

15th May 1978

Mr John Farmer from the NSALG had replied regarding the high rent and a meeting was to be arranged with the Parish Council.

Mrs Ivy King had offered a cup for the show in memory of her father Albert Coppen.

5th June 1978

Mr Dennis Edwards the chairman resigns. Mr Gordon Mott appointed chairman.

A “sales hut” rota was to be established. Finance was required to enable stock for the hut to be purchased.

3rd July 1978

The Allotments Association first Flower and Produce Show to be held in the school hall in September. Mrs Dorothy Jones gave a pewter tankard for presentation to the winner of the Best Kept Allotment competition.

24th July 1978

Mr G Mott was winner of the Best Kept Allotment competition. It was suspected that soft fruit had been stolen from the site. Several insurance schemes had been received from the NSALG and a decision was to be made at the next meeting.

14th August 1978

Following advice from the NSALG that the current rent of £20 calculated by the Parish Council was illegal under allotment laws the Parish Council agreed to reduce the rent to £10.

2nd September 1978

The Allotments Association first Flower and Produce Show held at the Primary school attracted 300 entries. It was reported that although the show was a success the standard of the entries and presentation was below “show standard” but at least a start had been made.

2nd October 1978

The committee was still dissatisfied with the rent at £10.

6th November 1978

It was agreed that up to £50 could be spent on hut stock.

4th December 1978

The Parish Council had proposed the setting up of an Allotment Management Committee comprising four Allotments Association committee members and four Parish Councillors.

15th January 1979

The treasurer reported a balance of £156 in the bank account. Insurance of hut stock to be arranged.

5th February 1979

It was agreed that no further action would be taken regarding the reduction of plot rents and that £10 per plot was a reasonable amount. There were problems with the drainage of the car park.

Subscriptions to be 70p.

8th March 1979

Spare plots to be ploughed by Mr Pearce. Suffolk County Council requested that the hedge be cut along Pound Lane.

19th March 1979 AGM

25 members present. A plot holder queried if planning permission had been applied for erection of individual sheds on plots. A successful show had been held. A profit of 8% on hut sales had been achieved and more variety of products would be held in future. A set of rules had been prepared to be issued at next collection of rents. Mrs Mitchinson and Mrs Jones resigned from the committee.

Messrs Lodge, Mullen and Osborne were elected onto the committee. Mr Roger Pearce was appointed President of the Association.

It is now over 2 years since the first meeting of the Association and several major milestones achieved in that time. Having now covered "the birth" I will summarise briefly any outstanding event mentioned in the forthcoming monthly meetings and report the annual activities as described in the AGM reports.

May 1979 to April 1981

Problems regarding the bad condition of the tractor paths to be raised with the Management Committee.

Secretary Mr T Richardson died. Mrs Margaret Shead appointed secretary.

Hut sales hit £550 for the year.

Plot rental reduced to £5 from January 1980.

A 5hp Merrytiller rotovator purchased for £321.74 to be hired by plot holders.

March 1980 - Colin Osborne to take over as Sales Secretary and Ian Fraser elected onto the committee.

Hard core laid on car park. Concern expressed that car park is being used by large lorries.

It was reported that dogs were not being kept under control on the site. (two owners have been spoken to). Also, rabbits had been seen.

Un-let plots to be ploughed by Roger Pearce.

It was suggested that the Management Committee be asked to consider a loan to the Association to finance stock for the hut. £270 agreed.

Mr Ian Fraser elected secretary at AGM in March 1981.

Complaint about dogs running loose on the allotments.

Annual subscription raised to 80p.

Graham Whybrow, Abe Hall, and A Cheatham elected onto the committee, Gordon Mott stands down as Chairman and Ray Harrison elected Chairman in March 1981.

A trial period agreed for the use of hose pipes on site. *(since banned)*

May 1981 to March 1983

Hut stock was valued at £300 and insured for £3.

A request had been made to the committee for provision of a toilet on site.

Following a visit by Ray Harrison to the RHS, it was proposed that the association should consider joining. *(It was later agreed to join).*

Abe Hall had investigated the feasibility of a toilet on site and reported back to the committee on the subject with a humorous poem.

Mr Cheatham appointed first membership secretary.

Feasibility study on installation of a site toilet concluded that it was not practical.

Eight plot holders were identified as not working their plot to a satisfactory standard and agreed that warning letters be sent.

Hut sales in 1981 totalled £653. *(In 2016 sales including seed scheme were £15,929).*

Agreed after research of many seed schemes that the NSALG scheme was the best and joined in 1982.

Rabbit tracks seen in the snow! –boundary fence to be checked.

At the 1982 AGM a suggestion was made that there ought to be “some kind of community shelter” erected on site. *(A poly tunnel/shelter was erected in 2011).*

April 1982. To keep in contact with members Abe Hall had allocated each committee member with an area of the village listing the roads and members in each area. *(This principle remains to this day.)*

Capel St Mary entered the Best Kept Village competition and a working party had been organised to keep the allotments up to standard.

Although several working parties had been organised to maintain the site, the first formal work-in now established.

July 1982 – Graham Whybrow wins the Best Kept Allotment competition. *(And several times since!).*

Purchase of a strimmer had necessitated the establishment of a set of health and safety rules.

Prior to December 1982 all committee meetings had been held in members’ houses. It was decided that in future the meeting room at the village hall would be more suitable.

A new constitution had been prepared by Abe Hall for presentation at the AGM in March 1983 which included the establishment of an Executive Committee which meets 5 times a year. The General Committee meets 6 times a year.

April 1983 to March 1985

It was agreed to continue to issue each committee member with an information folder containing a calendar of events, hut prices, hut duty dates, constitution, local rules, list of plot holders and members.

Unworked plots are becoming a problem especially that there is now a waiting list.

Deputies appointed for the executive members of the committee.

Members of the committee were allocated areas of responsibility for the maintenance of the site. *(This was not adopted).*

Plot holders of unworked plots to be personally approached with a view to finding out reasons for lack of activity.

There was difficulty in stocking and financing the stores hut in sufficient volumes to meet demand. Agreed to ask the Management Committee for a £200 loan. Stores Manager to agree with the Treasurer before committing expenditure.

Changes at the NSALG had made the Association question the value of being a member.

Hut sales for 1984 were £1,895.

April 1985 to March 1987

1985 AGM held at ByPass Nurseries by kind permission of Major Fenwick. The nursery remained open for the evening and special discounts given on purchases. 63 members attended.

Major Fenwick appointed President.

1986 Membership reaches 171.

Graham Whybrow appointed Stores Manager.

Due to the bad weather and several vacant plots the site had not looked its best in 1985. It was decided to create the post of Site Manager to address the situation.

First version of the scarecrow logo appears on The Hut price list.

10% discount card introduced by the ByPass Nurseries for members of the Association.

Charles Heath appointed Chairman (*still chairman in 2017*)

The 1986 Show to be held in marquee at the Bypass Nurseries site. The Show to feature a “teddy bears picnic”.

1986 AGM attended by nearly 100 members encouraged by special discounts at the ByPass Nurseries.

Gordon Mott appointed Site Manager.

To help with the administrative work it was suggested that a word processor be funded. It was agreed that although desirable it would not make a direct contribution to the allotment site. (*No computers in those days*).

Abe Hall – general secretary attends another National Conference of the NSALG. Next year at Torquay.

At the conference staffing and management of NSALG were subjected to some considerable criticism.

Hut sales reach £3,055 .72 including seed scheme.

April 1987 to March 1990

Steve Baker appointed Show Secretary for the September 1988 Show. (*Steve is now the Association's President*).

1987 membership reaches over 200.

1989 Show to be held again in the village hall and Celia Waters appointed Show secretary.

18 plot holders have given up their plots causing problems with weeds on un-let plots. Roger Pearce has done much work with his own machinery to keep the allotment site tidy.

Purchase of a wheeled strimmer.

Hut now open on Sundays at peak season. An additional hut had been erected to increase the sales area.

In 1988 a trip to RHS Wisley was enjoyed by 50 members.

Abe Hall had attended the AGM of the NSALG at Broadstairs where a proposal to increase the annual subscription from 25p to 35p (*subscription to the NSALG in 2017 is £3.00*).

Abe Hall stood down as General Secretary after six years service and Steve Baker was appointed his successor. Abe Hall was appointed Membership Secretary taking over from Steve Baker.

April 1990 to March 1993

61 members attend the AGM at the Bypass Nurseries. Thanks were conveyed to Major Fenwick and his staff for hosting the AGM for allowing members to purchase goods at a discounted price.

The economic uncertainties caused by the Gulf War had reduced the sponsorship contributions for the show.

The asbestos roof on the main shed has been replaced with timber and felt and a surrounding concrete base constructed.

With finance from both the Association and Parish Council the car park is to be re-surfaced.

1990 Hut sales reach £4,500 and seed scheme sales total £500

Abe Hall as Membership Secretary reported a membership of 308 and at the end of his report said "Having spoken far longer than anyone else and said far

less, he has realised that he missed his vocation. Should have been a politician.”

In 1990 several members had enjoyed a visit to the seed merchants Kings of Kelvedon.

Subscriptions to be increased from £1 to £2.

Carol Day and her helpers again provided teas and refreshments at the AGM and Jack Barnes organised the raffle.

The 1991 Show was filmed by a TV company for a future programme about allotments. *(Nothing ever came of it, suspect it ended up on the cutting room floor!).*

Planning permission for individual plot holders' huts on the site was applied for.

The Association had been involved in the village fun day and had given children rides in wheelbarrows. *(I doubt if we would be able to do this today with the health and safety rules that now apply).*

The 1992 Show had attracted 596 entries from 97 people, a magnificent effort following a very low 410 entries the previous year.

It was agreed to purchase some staging tables for the show and to jointly purchase these with the garden club to save the high cost of renting the tables.

A new Residents' group of classes for produce grown in Capel was to be introduced in next years show. This was to reflect the difficult growing conditions in heavy clay in Capel.

The surfacing of the car park was now finished and the extension to the sales hut completed.

Hawkshead TV had visited the allotment site to film footage of allotments for a series featuring Delia Smith. *(This time we did actually appear on Delia's show with Jim Keywood on his plot).*

Steve Baker announced his resignation as general secretary a position now to be filled by Mick Webb.

Abe Hall was given Honorary Life Member of the Association.

Many plots remain vacant. A proposal to grow Christmas trees has been submitted which would provide much needed income in the future.

March 1994 to March 1997

By kind invitation of Major Fenwick the 1994 show was held at the ByPass Nurseries.

Three vacant plots had been ploughed in an attempt to attract new plot holders.

The results of a membership survey concluded that in general members were happy with the current level of facilities provided by the Association.

Vacant plots continued to be a problem, giving the committee extra work in attempting to maintain them to a reasonable standard.

It was agreed to collect plot rentals and membership subscriptions from September for the following year. *(This was to assist the committee members in this task by not having to venture out in the middle of winter in the dark and to give an early indication of any plots becoming vacant).*

It was agreed that a small mower would be kept in the new shed and available to all plot holders to assist in keeping the paths cut between plots.

The 1995 show included a separate photography section sponsored by Bob Durham.

There were 48 plot holders in 1995. *(A measure of the increased level of interest in allotments can be gained in that we now have 80 plot holders in 2017).*

The 1996 show will be held in the village hall to recreate the “village feeling” that the event lost when being staged at the ByPass Nurseries. A new class of entries will be introduced for Capel Residents only and new chrysanthemum classes included.

Dennis Ross was acting as Site Manager whilst Gordon Mott was in hospital.

Phil Hickley was elected onto the committee.

Part of the boundary fence had been renovated by volunteers with specialist tools provided by Roger Pearce. It was intended to continue this work at the next work-in.

Major Fenwick resigned as President and Gordon Mott who continues to recover from his recent long illness was invited to the role.

A new ride on mower has been supplied by the Parish Council for use on site and will only be used by trained members.

The subject of “dogs on site” and the control thereof provoked considerable debate at the AGM.

New products for sale at the hut were floral sundries, salt for dishwashers and bark.

Attendance at the 1997 Show was down possibly due to the funeral of Diana Princess of Wales held on the same day.

Graham Whybrow gave an interesting account of the years trading at the hut. 3,000 kg of salt had been sold, 22,000 litres of multipurpose compost, grow bags containing 10,000 litres of growing medium, 1,000 kg of growmore, 100 litres of tomato feed and 10,000 feet of canes had been sold.

A new members information pack is to be introduced to explain the aims of the Association and give details of the organisation.

Graham Whybrow is to start a series of articles in Capel Capers on “gardening on a budget”. This follows on from an interesting series on chrysanthemums by Jack Garstang.

March 1998 to March 2004

A photocopier was purchased. A smart new notice board had been made by Ernie Allen. A donation was made to the Parish Council towards a new hand mower.

Hut sales in excess of £4,000. Again Graham Whybrow our Stores Manager gave an interesting analysis of the year’s sales. Enough grow bags to produce 3,000lbs of tomatoes, slow release pellets for 284 hanging baskets, 640mtrs of netting, liquid feed to fill 3,333 watering cans, perlite to fill a bath, 2,000kilos of salt and 35,000litres of compost.

The rules of the Best Kept Allotment competition are to be changed to be in line with the NSALG guide-lines.

A “flyer” was produced and distributed to promote the allotment plots.

The 1999 show had experienced an increase in the number of entries. New tablecloths for the show benches had been purchased. The show schedule now included metric measurements as well as imperial.

The worn out rotovator had been disposed of as well as a shredder. A new rotovator/cultivator and a wheeled heavy duty strimmer were purchased.

Parish Council representatives had been impressed by the overall standard of the allotment site.

The subject of dogs on site provoked another lively discussion at the AGM.

Rats had been observed on site. Appropriate action had been taken to try to eliminate them.

A website for the Association is to be created by Keith Bright who was elected onto the committee.

It was reported that the new photocopier had done 12,720 copies in the year since purchase.

Mick Webb our general secretary had worked for many hours on a revised constitution and rulebook. A copy of the revised constitution was put to the Members at the AGM. The new rulebook is in draft and will hopefully be approved at the next committee meeting.

The Association exhibited at the Chelsea Flower show.

We are now at the start of a new millennium

To celebrate the start of a new millennium two picnic tables had been purchased for the site.

The 2000 Show produced 564 entries from 64 people. A computer system devised by Mick Webb was used to produce entry cards, staging notices, show results and calculation of prize money.

The Show had featured in the local press with a picture of a giant cabbage and a journalist from the Kitchen Garden Magazine was in attendance to write a feature for a forthcoming edition. *(After a 15 month wait it was published in a 6 page article in December 2001).*

Excessive rain during the winter of 2000 had caused the car park to flood including the surrounding area and many plots were seriously water logged.

Another Millennium project came to fruition, an on site TOILET!

This project was financed 50:50 between the Association and the Parish Council. *(A proud moment as at that time not many allotments had toilets on site).*

In 2001 a "Civic Ceremony" was held with the toilet being formally opened by Gerald White Chairman of the Parish Council with Colin Nickerson, Eastern Regional Rep of the NSALG in attendance. This was followed by a hog roast and BBQ. The unfortunate hog was named "Primrose".

Wendy Russell appointed "toilet monitor" *(She has done an excellent job keeping the toilet and toilet shed in tip top condition).*

In a very busy year the newly created Association website was launched by Keith Bright.

Mick Webb continued to represent the Association at meetings of the Suffolk Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens (SSALG). He was appointed secretary. The SSALG promoted allotment gardening at the Suffolk Show and Bury Chrysanthemum show and attended open days at Otley College and a flower and produce show at Lowestoft. Articles have been published in the NSALG magazine.

Continuing the publicity theme, six members of the Association and Parish Council Chairman Gerald White were interviewed on the allotment site and featured in a half hour programme on Radio Suffolk.

Membership has reached 271.

Our exhibit of a hanging basket and window box at the Hampton Court Flower Show was awarded a Bronze Medal. Thanks were extended to Graham Whybrow for his hard work in achieving this award.

Membership subscription was increased from £2 to £3, the last increase being in 1991.

After the AGM, Mr Haynes from Kings Seeds gave an interesting talk on "A year in the life of a Seedsman".

The 2002 Show schedule will include sponsored advertising. Two new trophy cups had been presented – The Eric King Memorial Cup and The Andrew Tokely Cup.

Keith Bright was appointed Site Manager replacing Dennis Ross. Dennis Ross was thanked for the professional way he had performed his duties.

A generator has been purchased to provide electricity to the sales hut. Keith has installed the lighting and planned to also provide power sockets.

New products on sale in the hut are to include ready to use Glyphosate, coloured plant labels and Multi-rose insect spray.

The newly built hut extension is now available to house the extended range of products.

Geoff Cox was appointed Treasurer in place of Eric Catchpole who had passed away. Eric had done a sterling job in the role of treasurer over many years.

The 2002 Show was our Silver Jubilee year. Lesley Dolphin of Radio Suffolk reported the progress of Andrew Tokely's leeks from planting the seed to winning first prize. Gordon Mott the Association President who was involved in the very first show in 1978 presented the cups and trophies.

A new Honda rotovator was purchased as well as a high pressure washer to clean down machinery after use.

Celia Waters relinquished the job of Membership Secretary which was taken over by Mick Webb. Steve Baker who had been on the committee for 17 years and had been Membership Secretary, Show Secretary and General Secretary for 4 years also stepped down from the committee. *(Steve Baker became our President in 2006).*

Charles Heath had volunteered to be a member of the steering committee for the preparation of a Parish Plan for Capel. He asked members of the Association to let him know of any particular issues they may have.

All 68 available plots had been rented out to 57 plot holders.

A new ploy tunnel is planned which will contain 24 sections available to rent measuring 8' by 6'.

Bunkers had been built around the site to hold surplus mushroom compost from the mushroom farm.

Keith Bright announced he was relocating to Spain and would leave the committee but would still maintain the website. Colin Waters also stepped down from the committee. Ernie Allen, Colin Rose and Deirdre Rose joined the committee. Colin Rose was appointed Site Manager.

In 2004 funds of £2,000 had been spent on the poly tunnel. This was for materials as the labour had been provided by volunteers. Thanks were given to Keith Bright who had "masterminded" the project.

March 2005 to March 2010

The 2005 show held in a marquee on the playing field gave the show a real "country feel". A hailstorm in June had affected the number of entries in the fruit classes.

Hut sales reached an all time high of £8,920.

A feature about Capel allotments appeared in the Lets Talk (Suffolk edition) magazine. A visit to site by Tim Yeo (South Suffolk MP) was arranged to support "an early day motion" in the House of Commons to request that the government do more to support allotments.

David and Sheila Hall held the Allotment's BBQ in their garden in July with the added attraction of the use of their swimming pool. *(Several further BBQ's were held there).*

A trip to Bressingham was organised by Wendy Russell.

Sad news of the death of Gordon Mott who was one of the pioneers of the Allotments Association.

Steve Baker invited to become President.

In 2006 we entered the national competition for the Best Allotment Plot. (*One of our plot holders was placed second*)

Profit on the raffle at the BBQ was donated to the Capel doctors surgery. (*Since then further donations have been made to St Elizabeth Hospice, Air Ambulance, Tree House Appeal (EACH), Woolverstone Wish Fund (NHS), First Responders, St. John's Ambulance, Parkinson's UK, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Allotment wild life area*).

Mick Webb awarded a certificate for the best community website on Onesuffolk.

Colin Rose stands down as Site Manager and Clive Newby takes over role.

Work started on the wild life area. Visit to site by Suffolk Wildlife Trust to assess suitability of site for an owl box.

Number of plot holders reaches 72 people occupying 80 plots and number of Association members hits 350.

The 2008 show was a bumper year for entries. 79 exhibitors entered 697 exhibits.

Four new mammoth records achieved for a pumpkin, potato, runner bean, and marrow.

Site manager issued useful tips to plot and poly tunnel holders.

Treasurer Geoff Cox takes over Membership Secretary role from Mick Webb.

The site remains full and there is a growing waiting list for plots.

Several exchange visits within Suffolk took place with other allotment sites.

The twice yearly Work-ins when volunteer plot holders help maintain the allotment site continue to be most successful saving the Parish Council many hundreds of pounds whilst achieving a "professional" looking site.

In addition to the work-ins the committee members contributed many hours not only on site maintenance but also on administrative matters.

The Allotment Site was visited by over 30 people in an open garden event to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice.

A new cup for the Best Newcomer allotment holder was donated by Rita Hurcombe in memory of her husband Colin.

Membership reaches 380.

Over 1400 bulbs planted in the wild life area.

March 2011 to March 2017

“The Hut” was refitted with new shelving, windows and shutters.

New poly tunnel erected and financed by the Association at a cost of over £2,000.

Village organisations invited to view the wild life area.

Scarecrow competition held in 2012 (*winner Dennis Smith*).

Dennis created the Olympic games as a theme for the entertainment at the 2012 BBQ.

Karen Kenny who is the Eastern area representative of the NSALG and Derrick Holder chairman of the SSALG were guests at the AGM.

Funds continue to be spent on the wild life area with information boards.

The 2012 show was the 35th show and was recorded on film by local film makers Darius Laws and Nick Woolgar. The film included some of the regular exhibitors, interviews with plot holders, committee members and show helpers together with produce grown on the allotment. Now available on DVD.

In 2012 the original green cover on the new poly tunnel shredded in high winter winds. A heavy duty white plastic cover was fitted in the spring of 2013.

Allotments took part in the Open Garden weekend in June.

The Suffolk Association of Local Councils included the allotments as part of their council training scheme and used the allotment site as an example of good practice.

The president of the International Office of Allotment Gardeners came to Capel as part of his visit to Ipswich.

We hosted a meeting of the SSALG in the new poly tunnel.

The replacement cover on the new poly tunnel was ripped to pieces by hurricane force winds. (*A new cover was fitted, financed by an insurance claim*).

After 25 years service Mick Webb stands down as General Secretary and is congratulated by the President Steve Baker for a remarkable achievement. Mick agrees to carry on as web master and retain some IT jobs.

Philippa Brandon appointed General Secretary.

Subscriptions raised from £4 to £5 to cover the increase of the NSALG subscription to £3.

Electricity supply connected to allotment site thanks to the expertise of Dennis Smith who now joins the committee. This project has been financed completely by the Association from profits on Hut sales.

Sales hut refurbished and a cane store built.

A sub committee reviewed and revised the plot rental agreements together with the local rules. These were incorporated into the Parish council Allotments Management Committee standing orders and came into effect in 2014.

Clive Newby retires after 8 years as site manager. Dennis Smith takes over the role having assisted Clive in the last year or so.

A permanent brick BBQ was built on site ready for the 2014 BBQ in July.

Several new water tanks installed on the Allotment site, planned and executed by Dennis Smith and volunteer helpers.

The Association together with the Suffolk Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardens (SSALG) won the Silver Gilt Award at the Suffolk Show.

Draw ticket sales reached £999 for the Grand Draw at the Show, this being the main fund raiser for the Show.

Charles Heath retires as Show Secretary after 23 years and Wendy Russell takes over the role.

From 2016 plot rental for a full plot increased from £20 to £26, the previous increase was in 2012. However, only half plots are rented out at £16. Those attending work-ins receive a £6 rebate.

In 2016 the Association together with the Suffolk Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardens (SSALG) won the Gold medal at the Suffolk Show. Dennis and Graham raised the plants in the poly tunnel to produce a wonderful display of vegetables. *(We will be at the Suffolk Show again in 2017)*

A special display board and bunting was displayed at the entrance of the allotment site in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday.

Hut sales together with the seed scheme reach a record £15,929.

Ian Fraser stands down as Seed Scheme Manager and committee member. Ian has been a committee member for 37 years and has managed the seed scheme for 33 years.

Martyn Dowsett joins the committee as IT Manager.

An extension to the sales hut is made to accommodate rolls of fleece and netting.

March 2017 to March 2018

The Association reaches its' 40th anniversary.

A presentation was made at the 2017 AGM to 4 plot holders who have had their plots since 1977 these were Ian Fraser, Charles Heath, Colin Osborne and Malcolm Fenn

Graham Whybrow sorts through 3,500 photos to produce a display of 600 to celebrate our 40 years shown at the BBQ, Capel Fun Day and at the AGM

New computerised ordering system adopted for the Kings seed scheme

Phil Hickley takes over the running of the seed scheme from Ian Fraser.

The Association together with the SSALG wins Gold medal and Best in Show at the 2017 Suffolk Show.

Martyn Dowsett develops a new computer system used to run the 40th Flower and Produce Show.

Several members go on a visit to Mauldons Brewery.

Several articles about the allotment site and Show appear in the NAS Allotment magazine.

The Flower and Produce Show continues to attract over 600 entries.

After trawling through 40 years worth of minutes the 40 year History of Capel Allotments is published.

March 2018 to March 2019

This is the year of the long hot summer with plot holders watering for a 10 week period without rain.

In spite of the dry weather the annual Show remained buoyant and an article with pictures of the Show appeared in the National Allotment Society magazine.

A stall to promote the Allotments was held at Bentley Family Fun Day as well as our own Capel Fun Day.

Several group visits to the wildlife area and allotments saw pond dipping, fruit and veg naming and tasting including hedgerow scavenging.

Committee approves the idea for a meeting room on site and planning permission is applied for.

An old horse box is purchased and renovated and converted into a bar for use at the 2018 BBQ

Website is refreshed and rules put in place to comply with new data protection laws.

A Facebook page is launched.

Leaflets are printed to promote the allotments in the new houses being built in the village.

March 2019 to 2020

In contrast to last year we had a proper English spring, summer and autumn.

Crops grew well despite a heavy attack of potato blight.

The weather at the BBQ was the wettest yet with torrential rain the whole evening. Renovation of the horse box into a bar continued and was named "Scarecrow Tavern"

Following theft of machinery replacement items purchased include a mower, saw attachment and brush cutter. A new cultivator was purchased with the funds built up over years charging plot holders for the hire.

Application for a grant to help finance the meeting room from the National Allotment Trust was submitted.

At the Show a presentation was made to Dennis Page who retired as a show judge after many years judging the floral classes.

New banners purchased to promote the Show. The sale of draw tickets reached £1,000.

We took part again in the village scarecrow trail

This history of Capel Allotments sent to Suffolk Records Office

March 2020 to March 2021

There can be only one word to sum up the year 2020 and that is "COVID". A pandemic that has changed all our lives.

The AGM was cancelled.

The Allotment site remained open and was greatly appreciated by all plot holders as a place of refuge during the enforced lockdowns.

The lockdowns prevented going out or having holidays and this gave everyone a lot more time to work on their plots resulting in the allotment site looking even more superb than normal.

There were record orders for seeds from Kings and for potatoes.

There were record sales at the Hut which was organised as Covid safe and an online ordering and delivery system was introduced.

Unfortunately, our 43rd Show had to be cancelled because of the Covid restrictions as was our proposed "Picnic on the Plot" as a replacement for the BBQ

A "Covid" government grant of £10,000 was received and spent on the meeting room.

The meeting room was built by our team of volunteers led by our Site Manager

The application for a grant from the National Allotment Society to finance the meeting room was unsuccessful.

The poly tunnel suffered storm damage but has now been repaired, extended, and has a new cover all done by our team of volunteers.

Our Treasurer and IT committee members produced a new system for the rent and subscription renewals which has been very successful.

Committee meetings were held by using "WhatsApp", emails and phone. Not ideal, but kept the admin side of the Allotments Association on track.

March 2021 to March 2022

Many "COVID" restrictions remain in place for 2021, but the Allotment Site remained open throughout and was greatly appreciated by all plot holders as a place of refuge during the various lockdowns.

The very sad news of Graham Whybrow's death in May 2021

We were all deeply shocked and saddened by the passing of Graham who joined the committee in March 1981 and became Treasurer the following year until he became Stores Manager in 1986. He is greatly missed. A tree was planted in the wild life area in memory of Graham.

Plot rentals have increased to £30.00 for a full plot and £18.50 for a half plot and £12.00 for a poly tunnel plot with a £7.00 rebate for plot holders attending a “work-in”. The majority of plot holders have half plots and these will increase by £2.50 per year and poly tunnel plots by £2.00

The meeting room (Plotters’ Retreat”) was fitted out with lighting and heating and kitchen facilities and is now a wonderful asset for the site. Delayed by a year, Steve Baker our President performed the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Plotters’ Retreat.

We held our 43rd Show after the 2020 Show was cancelled because of the Covid pandemic. The Show was well supported with the number of entries maintained in spite of the previous Show not taking place.

Record orders for Kings seeds and for potatoes continued into 2021.

There have been several Committee changes. We welcome Tara Smith, Robert Birnie and Martin Leech. Tara will be taking over from Philippa as General Secretary and Martin as Site Manager.

Philippa has been a committee member since 2008 and General Secretary for 9 years. Grateful thanks go to her for carrying out this vital role.

After 7 years as Site Manager Dennis takes up duty as Hut Manager with Martin Leech taking over as Site Manager. It is difficult to put in words the dedication that Dennis has given us but you only have to look around the Site to see what he has achieved. Graham Leach is retiring from the committee. Graham is our “mower man” who has faithfully operated the ride on mower over the last 14 years.

The current committee members which are subject to re-election each year at the AGM are:

Name	Role
Charles Heath	Chairman
Tara Smith	General Secretary
Geoff Cox	Treasurer
Dennis Smith	Stores Manager
Martin Leech	Site Manager
Martyn Dowsett	IT Manager
Geoff Cox	Membership Secretary
Wendy Russell	Show Secretary
Phil Hickley	Seed Scheme Manager
Robert Birnie	
David Armitage	
Angie Armitage	Minute Secretary

2022 will be our forty fifth year (1977 to 2022)

A display of the Association's 40 years was held at Capel Fun Day in June 2017.

History of Committee and Post Holders

History of Committee Members

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Dennis Edwards	Chairman	February 1977 to June 1978
Mr D Ruddock	General Secretary	February 1977 to March 1978
Mr M France	Treasurer	February 1977 to March 1982
Mrs Dorothy Catchpole (Jones)	Committee	February 1977 to March 1979
	Committee	March 1986 to March 2006
Miss E Thurston	Committee	February 1977 to March 1982
Mr R Biden	Committee	February 1977 to August 1977
Mr D Richardson	Committee	February 1977 to March 1978
Mr R Talbot	Committee	February 1977 to March 1977
Mr Gordon Mott	Committee	February 1977 to March 1978
	Stores Manager	March 1978 to March 1979
	Seed Scheme Manager	March 1978 to March 1981
	Chairman	June 1978 to March 1981
	Committee	March 1981 to March 1982
	Chairman	March 1982 to March 1986
	Committee	March 1986 to March 1987
	Site Manager	March 1987 to March 1997
	President	March 1997 to April 2006
Mr Ray Harrison	Committee	March 1977 to March 1979
	Stores Manager	March 1979 to March 1980
	Committee	March 1980 to March 1981
	Chairman	March 1981 to March 1982
	Committee	March 1982 to March 1983
Mr Tom Richardson	Committee	October 1977 to March 1978
	General Secretary	March 1978 to June 1979
Mrs D Mitchinson	Committee	March 1978 to March 1979
Mrs Margaret Shead	Committee	March 1978 to June 1979
	General Secretary	June 1979 to March 1981

Name	Role	Dates
	Show Secretary	March 1980 to March 1984
Mr T Webber	Committee	March 1978 to March 1980
Mr Roy Leeks	Committee	March 1978 to March 1984
Mr Malcolm Fenn	Auditor	March 1978 to -
Mr Ronnie Lodge	Committee	March 1979 to March 1986
Mr C Mullen	Committee	March 1979 to March 1983
	Seed Scheme Manager	September 1981 to March 1983
Mr Colin Osborne	Committee	March 1979 to March 1980
	Stores Manager	March 1980 to March 1986
Mr Roger Pearce	President	March 1979 to March 1984
Mr Ian Fraser	Committee	March 1980 to March 1981
	General Secretary	March 1981 to March 1983
	Seed Scheme Manager	March 1983 to March 2017
Mr D Doshier	Committee	March 1980 to March 1982
Mr Graham Whybrow	Committee	March 1981 to March 1982
	Treasurer	March 1982 to March 1986
	Stores Manager	March 1986 to May 2021
Mr Abe Hall	Committee	March 1981 to March 1983
	General Secretary	March 1983 to March 1989
	Membership Secretary	March 1989 to March 1992
	Asst Site Manager	March 1992 to March 1993
Mr A Cheatham	Membership Secretary	March 1981 to March 1983
Mr Peter Bumphrey	Committee	March 1982 to March 1986
Mr Tony Parker	Committee	March 1982 to March 1984
	Show Secretary	March 1984 to March 1986
Mr Bob Halls	Committee	March 1983 to March 1986
	Site Manager	March 1986 to March 1987
Mrs Sally French	Committee	March 1983 to April 1983
Mr Paul Finch	Committee	March 1983 to March 1986
Mr Charles Heath	Committee	July 1983 to March 1986
	Chairman	March 1986 to -

Name	Role	Dates
	Show Secretary	March 1992 to March 2015
Mrs Brenda Eyers	Committee	March 1984 to March 1986
Mr Peter Treanor	Committee	March 1984 to March 1986
Major Charles Fenwick	President	June 1984 to March 1996
Mr Keith Cheney	Committee	March 1986 to March 1989
Mr Les Bryant	Committee	March 1986 to March 1989
Mr Peter Chapman	Committee	March 1986 to March 1989
Mr Steve Baker	Committee	March 1986 to March 1987
	Membership Secretary	March 1987 to March 1988
	Asst. General Secretary	March 1988 to March 1989
	Show Secretary	March 1988 to March 1989
	General Secretary	March 1989 to March 1993
	Committee	March 1993 to March 2003
	President	May 2006 to -
Mr Eric Catchpole	Treasurer	March 1986 to March 2003
Mr Andrew Hare	Committee	March 1986 to March 1988
Mr Tom Cramman	Committee	March 1986 to March 1988
Mrs Elaine Harrison	Show Secretary	March 1986 to March 1988
Mrs Celia Waters	Committee	March 1988 to March 1989
	Show Secretary	March 1989 to March 1992
	Committee	March 1992 to March 1993
	Membership Secretary	March 1993 to March 2003
Mr Mick Webb	Committee	March 1988 to March 1993
	General Secretary	March 1993 to December 2013
	Membership Secretary	March 2003 to March 2009
Mr Jim Keywood	Committee	March 1989 to March 1993
Mr Ted Barrett	Committee	March 1992 to March 1995
Mrs Wendy Russell	Committee	March 1992 to March 2015
	Show Secretary	March 2015 to -
Mr Mike Harrison	Committee	March 1994 to March 1995
Mr Martin Leech	Committee	March 1994 to March 1999

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Dennis Ross	Committee	March 1995 to March 1997
	Site Manager	March 1997 to March 2002
	Committee	March 2002 to April 2008
Mr Phil Hickley	Committee	March 1996 to – March 2007
	Seed Scheme Manager	March 2017 to
Mr John Turner	Committee	March 1998 to March 2000
Mrs Lorraine Farrow	Committee	March 1999 to March 2000
Mr Keith Bright	Committee	March 2000 to March 2002
	Site Manager	March 2002 to March 2005
Mr Colin Waters	Committee	March 2001 to March 2004
Mrs Deirdre Rose	Committee	March 2004 to March 2008
Mr Geoff Cox	Treasurer	March 2003 to -
	Membership Secretary	March 2009 to -
Mr Colin Rose	Site Manager	March 2005 to March 2007
	Committee	March 2007 to March 2008
Mr Ernie Allen	Committee	March 2005 to March 2008
Mr Nick Wade	Committee	March 2005 to March 2007
Mr Clive Newby	Committee	March 2006 to March 2007
	Site Manager	March 2007 to March 2015
	Committee	March 2015 to March 2016
Mrs Philippa Brandon	Committee	March 2008 to March 2013
	General Secretary	March 2013 to March 2022
Mr Graham Leach	Committee	March 2008 to March 2022
Mrs Tina Ruffles	Committee	March 2008 to March 2015
Mr Dennis Smith	Committee	March 2014 to March 2015
	Site Manager	March 2015 to March 2022
	Stores Manager	May 2021 to -
Mr David Armitage	Committee	March 2015 to -
Mrs Angie Armitage	Minute Secretary	March 2015 to -
Mr Martyn Dowsett	IT Manager	March 2017 to -
Mr Martin Leech	Site Manager	March 2022 to -

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Robert Birnie	Committee	March 2022 to -
Mrs Tara Smith	General Secretary	March 2022 to -

Chairman

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Dennis Edwards	Chairman	February 1977 to June 1978
Mr Gordon Mott	Chairman	June 1978 to March 1981
Mr Ray Harrison	Chairman	March 1981 to March 1982
Mr Gordon Mott	Chairman	March 1982 to March 1986
Mr Charles Heath	Chairman	March 1986 to -

General Secretary

Name	Role	Dates
Mr D Ruddock	General Secretary	February 1977 to March 1978
Mr Tom Richardson	General Secretary	March 1978 to June 1979
Mrs Margaret Shead	General Secretary	June 1979 to March 1981
Mr Ian Fraser	General Secretary	March 1981 to March 1983
Mr Abe Hall	General Secretary	March 1983 to March 1989
Mr Steve Baker	General Secretary	March 1989 to March 1993
Mr Mick Webb	General Secretary	March 1993 to December 2013
Mrs Philippa Brandon	General Secretary	March 2013 to March 2022
Mrs tara Smith	General Secretary	March 2022 to -

Show Secretary

Name	Role	Dates
Mrs Margaret Shead	Show Secretary	March 1980 to March 1984
Mr Tony Parker	Show Secretary	March 1984 to March 1986
Mrs Elaine Harrison non/c	Show Secretary	March 1986 to March 1988
Mr Steve Baker	Show Secretary	March 1988 to March 1989
Mrs Celia Waters	Show Secretary	March 1989 to March 1992
Mr Charles Heath	Show Secretary	March 1992 to March 2015
Mrs Wendy Russell	Show Secretary	March 2015 to -

Site Manager

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Bob Halls	Site Manager	March 1986 to March 1987
Mr Gordon Mott	Site Manager	March 1987 to March 1997
Mr Dennis Ross	Site Manager	March 1997 to March 2002
Mr Keith Bright	Site Manager	March 2002 to March 2005
Mr Colin Rose	Site Manager	March 2005 to March 2007
Mr Clive Newby	Site Manager	March 2007 to March 2015
Mr Dennis Smith	Site Manager	March 2015 to March 2022
Mr Martin Leech	Site Manager	March 2022 to -

Stores Manager

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Gordon Mott	Stores Manager	March 1978 to March 1979
Mr Ray Harrison	Stores Manager	March 1979 to March 1980
Mr Colin Osborne	Stores Manager	March 1980 to March 1986
Mr Graham Whybrow	Stores Manager	March 1986 to May 2021
Mr Dennis Smith	Stores Manager	May 2021 to -

Seed Scheme Manager

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Gordon Mott	Seed Scheme Manager	March 1978 to March 1981
Mr C Mullen	Seed Scheme Manager	September 1981 to March 1983
Mr Ian Fraser	Seed Scheme Manager	March 1983 to March 2017
Mr Phil Hickley	Seed Scheme Manger	March 2017 to

Membership Secretary

Name	Role	Dates
Mr D Ruddock	as General Secretary	February 1977 to March 1978
Mr Tom Richardson	as General Secretary	March 1978 to June 1979
Mrs Margaret Shead	as General Secretary	June 1979 to March 1981

Name	Role	Dates
Mr A Cheatham	Membership Secretary	March 1981 to March 1983
Mr Abe Hall	as General Secretary	March 1983 to March 1987
Mr Steve Baker	Membership Secretary	March 1987 to March 1989
Mr Abe Hall	Membership Secretary	March 1989 to March 1992
Mrs Celia Waters	Membership Secretary	March 1993 to March 2003
Mr Mick Webb	as General Secretary	March 2003 to March 2009
Mr Geoff Cox	Membership Secretary	March 2009 to -

Treasurer

Name	Role	Dates
Mr M France	Treasurer	February 1977 to March 1982
Mr Graham Whybrow	Treasurer	March 1982 to March 1986
Mr Eric Catchpole	Treasurer	March 1986 to March 2003
Mr Geoff Cox	Treasurer	March 2003 to -

Auditor

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Malcolm Fenn	Auditor	March 1978 to -

President

Name	Role	Dates
Mr Roger Pearce	President	March 1979 to March 1984
Mj Charles Fenwick	President	June 1984 to March 1996
Mr Gordon Mott	President	March 1997 to April 2006
Mr Steve Baker	President	May 2006 to -