

**CAPEL ST. MARY
ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

Affiliated to the NAS & RHS

President: Steve Baker

www.capelallotments.co.uk

1977 – 2020

We've been growing for forty-three years!



NOTICE OF PLOTHOLDERS' MEETING

&

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on the Allotment Site

Pound Lane Capel St Mary

Sunday 19th April 2020 12 noon

This meeting follows the Spring Work-In. If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to put a question to the meeting please advise Philippa Brandon of the details. Proposals, nominations (forms available from Philippa) and replies by email must be sent to her by Monday 6th April 2020. You can contact Philippa on 01473 310073 or by email secretary@capelallotments.co.uk

Members are requested to bring their membership cards as proof of their entitlement to vote and address the meeting.

Order of Meeting

1. President's Address
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the 7th April 2019 to be approved (attached). Paper copies of minutes will be available on the day of the meeting or by earlier request to General Secretary, Philippa Brandon
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts for 2019
5. Questions to Executive Officers and Committee Members
6. Proposals
7. Election of Officers, Committee and Auditor
8. General Discussion
9. Any Other Business
10. Refreshments

President's Review - Stephen Baker

According to the "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy" the number 42 is the answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything. Well, predictably, Capel Allotments Association has gone one better and is now on to number 43! Although, maybe that's not so surprising given how hard our members work!. Looking ahead to the next year I sense a mix of apprehension and confidence; who knows what challenges the weather will provide in the year ahead? And yet we know that with some ingenuity, creativity, and hard graft the plot-holders and gardeners will once again rise to the challenge, and produce an abundance of fruit, veg and flowers.

The Allotments Association is a fundamental part of village life, not only providing the Annual Show but also the Hut, wildlife area, and support for other village activities. All members play a part, but the mainstay has to be the committee, and may I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of them for their hard work throughout the year.

Whilst the Hitchhikers Guide is fiction, the benefits of gardening are a fact, but you don't need me to tell you that! And finally, whatever the weather throws at us, bear the message from the Guide in mind, and 'Don't Panic'!

Chairman's Report - Charles Heath

The weather in Capel in 2019, in contrast to the long hot summer in 2018 helped produce bumper crops with the help of course of the skill of plot holders.

Kings Seeds produced another attractive seed catalogue to tempt us to buy their discounted seeds. Our own potato scheme continues to be very popular. The allotment site continues to look great and thanks go to Dennis, our site manager, together with the volunteers who attend the work-ins and keep the site maintained to a high standard.

We have applied for a grant from the NAG Trust to help part finance the meeting room.

The Show continues to attract entries in all classes and is now a village classic.

There were record sales at the Hut and thanks go to the volunteers who serve there at the weekends. The profit on sales contributes to many of the facilities on site.

All committee members work very hard giving many hours of their time to achieve the aim of making our association successful in all the various activities necessary in the running of the site, the Show, the sales hut, the seed and potato schemes, the BBQ, IT and databases, collection of rents and membership fees, finance, group visits to the site, and attendance of meetings.

Thank you committee members, and all our members, for your continued support.

Treasurer's Report - Geoff Cox

Our surplus for 2019 of £251.69 is down by over £1400 on our record of £1673.65 in 2018.

This was due mainly to a drop of £300 in the Show surplus, £370 in the Seed Scheme surplus, £200 on the horsebox, £350 on the new Clubhouse, and £100 on the Hut surplus. Now that we use the online ordering system for the Seed Scheme the commission is not paid immediately and normally arrives the following year in June or later.

Membership Secretary's Report – Geoff Cox

During the membership year ending in September 2019, we had 21 new members and 30 resignations leaving us with 323 members at the end of the year. Of these 320 are paying members and 3 are honorary. There are 235 members from the village and 85 come from outside the village.

There were 98 plots of varying sizes under cultivation by 79 individual plot holders and there were 24 plots rented in the polytunnel.

Show Secretary's Report - Wendy Russell

Our 42nd Show was again a great success. Although we had a wet spring, we had lovely warmth and sunshine in July and August with hardly any rain. With

new and loyal regulars we had 617 entries from 74 entrants which was 18 entries and 15 entrants down on last year. The figures fluctuate every year with many factors affecting them. Although the vegetable sections were up by 10, the mammoth and pumpkins were down 25, a big impact in this class. There were 5 more in the longest runner bean class and Capel residents were on par with the previous year. It was disappointing that there were 11 fewer entries in the floral section compared to entries in 2018. The family tray section increased, an advantage being that any family member can contribute. Novelty classes were on a par with last year, the very popular cookery section was up by 12, handicrafts down by 4 but paintings up by 5. There were 74 photography entries, down by 17 on last year. We made a change to the children's classes in 2019, dividing 2 age groups into 3. We now have under 6, 6–10 and 11–16 age groups.

We had a new sponsor, Mike Gilson, with the Sue Gilson Rose Bowl in memory of his wife. It was presented to the best exhibits in classes 57 and 58. He commented that his wife always used to enter this class. Thank you Mike.

We said farewell to Dennis Page who had been a regular judge for us over the past three decades. A thank you presentation was made for all his years' service to our shows.

A final thank you to everyone who contributes to making our annual show a great success.

The 2020 Show 5th – 6th September

Show schedules will be distributed to previous exhibitors and all plot holders will be notified by May. Further details will be online in August. The show schedule will be on our website www.capelallotments.co.uk if you need any advice on entering, please have a chat with Wendy Russell.

Store Manager's Report - Graham Whybrow

2020 canes later, we are now restocked for the 2020 season with extra special prices on a selection of fabrics, netting, watering cans, disinfectant, and a limited supply of bug and weed killers - When It's Gone It's Gone! Our volunteers are kept busy by your continued support and 'The Hut' remains a centre for excited conversation about all things gardening, with shared advice, tips, ideas and of course the weather!!! The attractive spring and summer display of bunches of flowers, surplus fruit and vegetable plants act as an eye-catching display of what can be achieved with a little effort on the Allotments Site. The seedlings are a means by which you can catch up and plant direct and you can enjoy the sight of fresh flowers and eat the fruits of someone else's labour.

Seed Scheme Report - Phil Hickley

The Allotment Association has again offered a seed and potato ordering scheme which remains popular for members and plot holders alike. Our members from as far afield as Colchester, Bramford, Sproughton, Felixstowe, Trimley, Brantham, Holton and Raydon utilised both schemes in 2019 generating valuable commission for the Association's funds.

We have continued to offer Kings Seeds for the 2019/20 ordering season alongside our own Potato scheme, providing a facility for members to order seeds online, direct from Kings, while still allowing paper-based ordering for members.

A total of 181 individual bags of potatoes were ordered by 57 members through our scheme and 73 members bought seeds with total orders in excess of £3,250

The method of ordering seeds direct continues to work well, allowing members more control over buying, delivery and additional payment options.

Visits to the Allotments and Wildlife Area - Philippa Brandon

The Wildlife Area and pond continue to thrive. Bushes, trees and a selection of donated plants from plottolders bloom and fruit and naturalized bulbs make a good show.

We continue to host visits to the site. In 2019 Brownies and Rainbows came again and enjoyed activities outdoors. A strong link has been forged with Robins Childcare who visit the site and wildlife area at least twice a year. They have a great time planting, tasting, looking, and pond dipping. This year they have also experimented with printing and making music with leaves and natural objects. Many thanks to Graham and Sue and all who contribute to these visits.

To arrange a visit contact info@capelallotments.co.uk

Site Manager's Report - Dennis Smith

Another year has come and gone and we are now all working hard to achieve another bumper crop from our allotment. Hopefully the bad weather is behind us and we can go ahead with digging and planting.

At the time of writing this report only one plot remains empty.

The wildlife area continues to be of interest to the younger youth organizations within the local area. I am sure it is beneficial for educational purposes and for youngsters to enjoy the fresh air and be closer to nature.

I have a small team of volunteers who help me from time to time to with various tasks on site. I would like to thank them all for the time and effort which they have put in during the year to improve the site and to keep it one of the best, if not the best allotment site in Suffolk. Keep up the good work.

The work-in will have taken place before the AGM and the boundary fences will have been improved and the tractor paths will be looking smart having received a new layer of road plainings. Thanks for attending and for all the help you have given me.

If you have a bonfire on your plot make sure it is lit at the correct time of day and that the wind is in the correct direction, i.e. not blowing towards the village, Pound Lane or the church. Please be considerate to other plot holders. All fires on plots must be lit in suitable incinerators.

Try to maintain the footpaths between the plots by cutting the grass - there are lawn mowers available for this purpose, and keeping them free of rubbish. They should be about one meter wide.

Lastly, try to keep your plot weed free and compost as much as possible. Keep up the good work, the site would not function as it does without the continued support it receives from your good selves.

General Secretary's Report - Philippa Brandon

It has been another busy year. To streamline meetings and avoid duplication, it was decided to reduce the number of Executive Committee meetings from 5 to 3 per year. The General Committee meetings remain at 6 per year. Many thanks to Angie Armitage for minuting the General Committee meetings and thanks to all committee members for their regular attendance and participation in discussions.

The 2019 Barbecue was yet another resounding success and a tribute to Graham Whybrow's organisation and the tremendous amount of work and commitment from him and his team. Graham has decided to step down after twenty years organising this event. Many thanks to him and to everyone else who has been involved over the years. We have therefore decided to try a different sort of social event in 2020. We will be holding a Picnic on the Plot. The date will be Saturday 25th July and will be an enjoyable opportunity for association members and guests to get together. Details will be on the website and in newsletters.

As in previous years, this AGM will be followed by a buffet lunch.

IT Report - Martyn Dowsett

The major item last year was the complete refresh of the Allotment Association website, it now has a new fresher design and hopefully is easier to navigate and find the information you are looking for. Please take the opportunity to visit to website and let us have any comments. The Facebook page continues to be enhanced and we are posting details of events here as well as on the association website.

From February this year we are taking payment at the hut by credit/debit card as well as by cash and cheque. If you have the technology, we can also accept payment by Google Pay and Apple Pay.

From September we will be accepting membership payments and plot rental payments via electronic bank transfer. If you use electronic banking you will find details of our account and the payment reference along with your membership card for 2021 when we visit you after September.

We have processed the usual website updates with the monthly publication of the Allotment News. It would be nice to make the website a little more interactive, if you have photos of the site, or your plot and wish to write a short article about it, please mail it to me or feel free to contact us via webmaster@capelallotments.co.uk and hopefully we can look forwards to some new content.

Dates For Your Diary

Suffolk Show	27th May – 28th May.
Capel Fun Day	Saturday 6th June
Picnic on the Plot	Saturday 25th July
National Allotment Week	10 th – 16 th August
Forty-second Annual Flower and Produce Show	5 th – 6 th September
Autumn Work- In	Sunday 18 th October

There will be a Picnic on the Plot on Saturday 25th July.

Further details will be included on the website, in the next newsletter and on the site's notice board.

This is a new event for all ages and should be a great way of enjoying yourselves and meeting fellow allotmenters

And finally -

Insurance. Neither the Parish Council nor the Allotments Association insures members or plot holders against personal injury.

NAS Affiliation. Members names and addresses are passed to the NAS unless a member has asked that details are withheld. Please advise Philippa Brandon if you would like your details withheld.

Rules and Constitution—If you would like a copy of the Association's Rule Book and Constitution please ask Philippa Brandon.

Appointment of Officers and Committee

The following members have indicated that they will be standing for re-election to the positions indicated to conduct the administrative affairs of Capel St. Mary Allotments Association for the year starting 8th April 2019.

Chairman	Charles Heath
Secretary	Philippa Brandon
Treasurer	Geoff Cox
Stores Manager	Graham Whybrow
Site Manager	Dennis Smith

Other Officers

IT Support	Martyn Dowsett
Membership Sec.	Geoff Cox
Show Secretary	Wendy Russell
Seed Scheme Manager	Phil Hickley

All the above to be Ex-Officio members of the General Committee, which shall also include

	Graham Leach
	David Armitage
Minutes Secretary	Angie Armitage

If you would like to stand for membership of the committee see page 2.