

Sheet & Tilmore Allotment Association
42nd Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 20th November, 2019, The Half Moon, Sheet at 7:30pm
web address: <https://sheetandtilmore.weebly.com/>

1. The Chairman, Tim Dilks, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including two members of Sheet Parish Council: Robin Forrest and Ron Dark.
2. Apologies were received from Julie Yardley and Bubbles Silk.
3. Minutes of STAA, Tuesday 20th November, 2018, were approved.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Chairman's Report – Tim Dilks

Tim remarked that some produce had done better and some worse this year. He commented that the free manure provided for members by the Association had helped the crops. He had success with his large crop of bumper-sized potatoes; there was no blight, probably due to the dry spell in summer happening at the right time. Parsnips have also done well but brassicas, especially cabbages and cauliflowers have been disappointing. Beans: runners, broad and French have been abundant but needed plenty of water. Fruit, especially raspberries and apples has done well.

Tim said that he had had half of his plot rotavated by Dugg of Petersfield Town Council. The council cannot offer this service to order, due to the cost of machine hire. However, if they are rotavating plots for new allotmentees, they may be able to do yours if you arrange this with them.

Tim thanked the committee for organising the very successful BBQ at Sheet in July and remarked we were blessed with the weather.

Alison was thanked for her help with the judging in the competition and new entrants were encouraged for next year.

Steve and his dad were thanked for their repair of The Shed.

Ros was thanked for administrating and distributing the King's seed order.

Vanessa, who is standing down as secretary, was thanked and presented with a bouquet.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Alison reported that the accounts have been signed off and are on the website.

Balances: Current Account £376.54

Deposit Account £645

Main expenditure has been The Shed repair, the manure and the purchase of two small portable BBQs.

In response to a question from the floor, Alison explained the benefits of membership (£5): half-price seeds from King's, cost-price goods from The Shed, free annual BBQ, concessionary entry to Wisley (RHS gardens), insurance, manure.

7. Trading Report:

Abi explained that she runs The Shed in Mill Lane, Sheet, where members can buy items at cost price:

- grow-bags
- fertilisers, including organic brands, for green vegetables, root vegetables and strawberries (highly recommended)
- bamboo canes 5/6/8 foot – 8 foot are now scarce in garden centres
- slug pellets, including organic brands
- bagged manure
- soil conditioners, for example 25kg of chicken pellets @ £7.50
- fence posts of different lengths and diameter
- seed potatoes – certain varieties are available at less than half price at the beginning of the season – procedure of potato ordering was explained

The Shed will be open fortnightly, starting 1st March, 2020, from 11:00 – 12:00.

Abi will open by arrangement for members who request it and may be able to deliver. She also may be able to provide new lines if there is sufficient demand.

Shed Accounts:

Stock value at close of season	£450	(no wastage due to water and rodent-tight Shed)
Purchases	£561	
Sales	£1049.80	

Profit: £29.80

All Shed receipts and expenditure are itemised in the official Allotment Accounts.

8. Membership Report

Alison commented on the issue of identifying new plot-holders (possible members) especially at Sheet (due to size). The councils no longer hand on the personal information of plot-holders to the Committee due to data-protection legislation. A discussion ensued on the practicalities of informing new plot-holders of the benefits of membership which was summarised thus:

- a big poster on the notice boards (Tilmore board is in poor state – raise with PTC)
- a form on the website giving plot-holders the means to supply their personal details and contact numbers to the Association
- Committee and councils to work together to advertise Association to new plot-holders and to provide a consent form, as in previous point

Alison also explained the status of Associate Members: these do not need to have a plot but can enjoy the benefits of membership for their £5 fee.

9. Web Update

The website address is <https://sheetandtilmore.weebly.com/>

However, access to the site is available by Googling Sheet and Tilmore Allotments.

Features of the website:

- Home Page – benefits
- Map Page – position of allotments, Shed etc
- Trading Page
- Committee Page
- Documents Page
- New Members' Page (new)
- Accounts Page
- Meetings Minutes
- Blog Page

To download any documents you will need a PDF reader.

There is also a Facebook page.

Every document circulated should carry the website address.

10. Resignation and Appointment of Committee Members

Vanessa has stepped down as secretary after four years.

Jean Lord (Tilmore Plot 20) was elected as secretary; duly proposed Vanessa Harvey and seconded Steve Elliott.

The remaining committee members were re-elected; proposed John Deavin, seconded Gordon Churchill.

Abi addressed the meeting encouraging new blood for the committee and asked all present to consider committee membership.

11. Presentation of Prizes

Robin Forrest presented the prizes for the Sheet Allotments Competition:

2018 Best Newcomer – John Russell, Plot 8

2019 Joint First Prize – Patricia Woodridge Plots 32/33/35 and David Mogg Plot 88

Second Prize – Margaret and Peter Davis Plot 75

Third Prize – Lynne Burge Plot 49

Robin commented on the state of the access to the allotments via Mill Lane.

Tim Dilks presented the prizes for the Tilmore Allotments Competition:

2018 Best Newcomer – Jean and Robert Lord, Plot 20A

2019 First Prize – Dorothy and Paul Barton, Plot 18A

Second Prize – Gordon Churchill, Plot 9

Third Prize – Jean and Robert Lord, Plot 20

Best Newcomer – Nick and Bubbles Silk, Plot 2A

Tim remarked that the standard was very high.

12. Trading Arrangements for Coming Year

Ros explained the procedure for ordering King's seeds and other products:

- King's catalogue has an order form and instructions stapled inside front cover
- Particular good value can be obtained by taking advantage of the 'seed collections' on the first few pages of the catalogue. These have already been discounted by King's and are further subject to the members' 50% discount
- Items such as garden tools are delivered carriage-free. Larger items will usually be delivered directly to your home address so make sure you provide it on the form
- Copies of catalogues are available from the clear, plastic boxes next to the notice boards on each site
- Orders should be delivered as explained in the instructions by Saturday 4th January, 2020. However, if you cannot make this date due to unavoidable circumstances please contact Ros as she may still be able to accept your order

Last year, Ros took 39 orders to a value of £1350 of goods most of which were half price.

13. A.O.B.

- It was suggested that the free manure event should be repeated in 2020. It was established that funds were available and a vote was proposed. Motion was carried 27 for; 3 against.
Plot holder 67 (Sheet) requested that the manure should not be piled so close to his gate. Richard Coles (Stroud) was suggested as a possible source of manure. One member remarked on the quantities of weeds that grew after he spread the manure. Others did not experience this issue.
- Pot holes are again becoming a nuisance at Sheet. Sheet Parish Councillor Robin Forrest said that scalplings are usually provided but the access continues to cause issues. Discussion about history of management of the tracks prior to site being taken over by Sheet from Petersfield
- Communication – new members at Sheet are not always being informed about the Allotment Association and other events e.g. the BBQ
- Surplus produce is welcome at 'Free Shop Friday' located at Petersfield Station, usually open Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. Please take excess on Thursday and Friday. The Salvation Army will also take surplus.
- Post- meeting: a member from Tilmore got stuck inside the site and could not pull the padlock through due to short chain. Informed this issue has been raised before and recommended he contact PTC directly

The Meeting closed at 9:15pm