

## Chairman's Annual Report 2016

I'd like to thank all of the committee for their hard work over the past year. I want to remind everyone that all committee members are volunteers and we give up our time freely to help run the allotment site on behalf of the council.

George stood down as storekeeper this year and we had to change the way the stores operated. We no longer have someone with as much availability as George had, so we set up opening hours for the stores. This is common practice on most allotment sites. I think it's worked well, people now know when the stores are available. I'd like to thank Terry, Eddie and Mal who've all given up time to help run the stores. I'd also like to thank John Byrne for taking on the task of hiring out machinery, as someone who's done this in the past I know how much time and effort this job takes up.

I'd like to thank George for all the work he's done again this year in the polytunnels, growing plants for sale in our May open days and vegetables to sell in our August Open Day. I'd also like to thank his brother Paul who's helped him this year.

Our Flower Show was a big success again this year. We had lots of entries again and the judge said that she was very impressed with the quality of entries. I was disappointed that we didn't get many new ploholders entering the show, I hope to see more entering next year. We also hope that more people will volunteer to help on the open days.

We've continued to try and improve communications again this year, sending out newsletters and updating the noticeboards with news bulletin updates. We've also sent out email newsletters to people who have email addresses.

We've successfully bid for funding in the past year receiving money from the Knotty Ash Councillors to purchase a new toilet and to get a skip to clear rubbish. We've recently bid to a council fund to get a new strimmer.

This year we got the spikes up along the old garage wall. Thanks to John Morris, Gary Flack and Tony Beyga for doing this work. We received funding towards the cost from Housing 21.

Over the past year we've had four skips. The next skip will be delivered on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Some of the skips that we get are to clear rubbish that new ploholders have inherited and these skips are not advertised to all ploholders. We have managed to get funding for some skips but they are expensive if we have to cover the costs. It is ploholders responsibility to dispose of their own rubbish. Remember that you only pay fees to the association to cover water rates and membership of the NSALG.

We're now into the burning season and I'd just like to remind everyone to please be considerate to our neighbours and your neighbouring ploholders when burning.

I've left the best news of the year until last. We once again entered the Liverpool Annual Allotment competition and we won Best Allotment Site. We haven't won this since 2009. Tommy Hall also won Best Plot in Liverpool and Gary Flack came third. We also won Best Group of five Plots. These are the best results we've ever had in the competition. Congratulations to everyone. I hope we can win again next year.