

**BRISLEY ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT TO APRIL 2018 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

UPDATE

2017 was another successful year for the Brisley Allotment Society and it has been pleasing to note that many of the allotment holders have already been very busy preparing the ground for the forthcoming growing season, indeed some of the hardiest of our small community have already started planting. It has been quite a tough winter weather-wise and the recent rain has made the soil far too wet to work effectively. Nevertheless we are all looking forward to the eventual arrival of spring when planting will commence at a pace.

Our seed orders for 2018 were kindly co-ordinated by Jane Dykes again this year.

CURRENT OCCUPANCY & VACANT PLOTS

Parish Clerk to report.

12 4 vacant.

LICENCE RENEWALS

These were sent out by the Parish Clerk has in Q.4 2017.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

I am pleased to report that the frequency of the grass cutting undertaken by Norse did become more regular towards the end of the 2017 growing season however the inconsistency of these during the first half of the year were constant cause of frustration. Several allotment holders took upon themselves to cut the grass adjacent to their plots because of this which is not an ideal situation given the rental which is paid to cover this.

The vacant plots will need to be topped off before Spring because the prevalence of the extremely invasive mares tail (*Equisetum arvense*) remains a worry.

COMPETITION

We hold an annual Tallest Sunflower and Largest Sunflower Competition each year which is judged in September. Unfortunately the planned BBQ to coincide with this last year had to be cancelled due to the weather.

Members of the Allotment Society ventured out to measure and announce the winners of the 2017 competition. It was a damp and breezy affair, and the measuring committee had great fun finding the best examples to be coaxed into being measured – particularly the pumpkins ! The results were as follows:

TALLEST SUNFLOWER

Winner : Peter + Erica Dennis at 249 cm

Second : Alan Cross at 246 cm

Third : Hugh + Julia Fawcett at 208 cm

LARGEST PUMPKIN

Winner : Andrew at 147 cm girth

Second : Richard Stratton at 144 cm girth

Third (Joint) : Hugh Fawcett and Julia Peaver and Peter and Erica Dennis at 117 cm girth

OTHER BUSINESS

It should be noted that the rabbit proof fencing surrounding the site is rusting quite badly in a number of places despite being galvanised. Its long term effectiveness may need to be monitored therefore. The flooding across quite a large part of the Amenity Area, whilst not affecting the Allotment Site as yet, is of concern and should be noted by the Parish Council.

Thank you

Alan Cross
Chairman