

CAAL Bulletin - August 2025

Greetings CAAL Members,

1. **Your Cttee:** Freya Morgan has joined our Cttee as the Field Rep, replacing Deborah. So sincere thanks to Deborah for her super, long term support to the Society, and thanks to Freya for joining.
2. **Leases & Legal stuff:** I attended meetings with OCC (Oxford City Council) concerning the new lease etc - most of Oxford's 30+ allotments were represented. It has been a tortuous process but we are nearly there. My estimate is during Q4 this year, CAAL will sign new lease with OCC, then CAAL needs to sign a sub lease with each of you (electronically I hope). With this new lease come new rules by the landlord, ie OCC - they are not onerous, but we need to ensure: OCC rules, our site rules and the Co-op Soc rules are aligned. Process:
 - a. Cttee to check coherence of rules, recommend any changes at next AGM.
 - b. I sign new lease with OCC on behalf of you, CAAL.
 - c. Cttee circulate sub-lease to each member, stating "Joan XX, has Plot Y, at fee of £ZZ pa".
 - d. OCC will video site boundary/fences - our responsibility = to maintain standards.
3. **Events:**
 - a. **BBQ Sunday 31 August 1200.** This has been CANCELLED DUE to a lack of interest.
 - b. **Work Party 13th Sept** – please see below,
 - c. **AGM:** Dec 25 / Jan 26... watch this space.
4. **Work Parties & Site:** Next is Sunday Sept 13th, 1300-1600. Ada in charge. This WP will focus on removing rubbish / autumn shrub maintenance. Remember, if you can't make any work parties, instead of pay-out, you can do a range of jobs on the site as agreed by Ada. It will count towards your WP commitment.
5. **Light fingers: Diana at Plot 32** has had produce taken... this year, and last. Her plot is close to the gate and somebody is stealing, this is unacceptable, do not do this.
6. **Its dry, the future..** my missive asking you clever guys to propose means to save water to meet changing climatic conditions realised 1 suggestion, yep one. So thanks to Dave W but the problem is not going away, so we will need to discuss at AGM please.
7. **Batteries and Sheds.** We had a close shave with the fire in July. If a plot holder had not been on site, able to douse the fire, then a significant part of the site could have caught fire. We have no insurance for this. So do not leave trimmer and other lithium batteries in sheds, please take them home. Cttee considering the associations's trimmers kept in the loo.

Cotteslowe Allotment Association Limited – Reg No. 5295

8. **Plot 4.** We give use of Plot 4 to the Cotteslowe Larder. Under Matthew's guidance they have a superb, productive plot. The photo below shows the fruits of Plot 4, and that produce which you have donated, going to the larder. Its great news, thank you all.



Robert Davies
Chair CAAL
