

ALLOTMENT GARDENING

Cotteslowe Allotments

GROW YOUR OWN

Cotteslowe Allotments

A Guide for New Members

2023-2024



CONTENTS

		PAGE
0.0	INDEX	2
1.0	UNDERSTANDING THE ALLOTMENT RULES	4
	What are the rules for?	4
	Summary of the rules	4
	What happens if I breach the rules?	5
2.0	PAYING FOR YOUR PLOT	6
	Allotment invoices	6
	How is my payment calculated?	6
	Reduced Allotment rent	6
3.0	WHO TO CONTACT	7
	Field Secretary	7
	Allotment Association	7
	Council Allotments Officer	7
4.0	GETTING STARTED	8
	Marking your plot	8
	Basic guidance	8
	What tools do you need?	8
5.0	QUICK GUIDE TO PLANTING	
	Where to start	10
	What to grow	10
	Get to know your soil type	10
	Crop rotation	10
	Fruit	11
	Green Manure	11
	Wildlife on allotments	11
6.0	GLASSHOUSES, SHEDS POLYTUNNELS AND OTHER STRUCTURES	12
7.0	MAINTAINING A HEALTHY PLOT	12
	Composting	12
	Soil Fertility	12
	
8.0	WATER	13
9.0	HEALTH & SAFETY	13
10.0	CULTIVATION & GENERAL RULES	13-16
11.0	WORK PARTIES	16
12.0	FURTHER INFORMATION	16-17

Who is this booklet for?

This booklet is for everyone involved in Allotments but is particularly aimed at our new allotment holders. It provides basic information about your tenancy agreement, details of how to pay for your plot, contact points and guidance on how to cultivate your allotment.

Growing your own vegetables is very fulfilling. To cultivate and maintain your plot you will probably need to spend about two hours each week on your allotment. You may need more time if you have a full plot and certain times of year are busier than others. Regular, short periods of work is the key to keeping your allotment well managed and under control.

Experience has shown us that the most successful plot holders tend to work their plots regularly each week. When plots are untended for any length of time the weeds get out of control very quickly. It is then much more daunting and takes much longer to bring the plot back into good condition.

If you are starting out on a plot that needs clearance, then one of the best ways to get things going is to invite friends and family to give you a hand to prepare the plot – many hands really do make light work !

If you are new to growing your own vegetables, please don't be afraid to ask other plot holders for advice or guidance. We were all beginners once and there is a wealth of knowledge in our Association members that you can tap into.

The Committee does hold regular inspections and plot holders who are not working their allotment in line with the Associations' Rules run the risk of losing their plot.

Please read the Members Rules found on pages 13 - 15 before you start work on your plot.

A very warm welcome to Cutteslowe Allotment Association.

We hope you have many years of happy growing

UNDERSTANDING THE ALLOTMENT RULES

What are the rules for?

The Allotments Act, Oxford City Council and your Member's Agreement dictate how our allotments can be used. The agreement is a legal document and failure to comply with it could result in the termination of your membership.

Summary of the rules

Please note: This summary is provided as a guide to help you understand your tenancy agreement. It is provided for information purposes only. It does not replace the terms and conditions of your Allotment Member's Agreement. For details of the Association's Rules **please read pages 13 to 15 carefully**. Under your Allotment Member's Agreement, you are expected to:

1. Maintain your plot in good condition:

This means you must:

- Cultivate all your plot, keeping it weed free and well-manured.
- Clear all weeds to prevent them from setting seed and causing nuisance to others.
- Maintain pathways between your plot and those surrounding it in good condition and free from any obstructions, rubbish or wire.
- Display your plot number clearly within the allotment plot.
- Maintain any sheds, greenhouses or other structures in good condition, otherwise you may be asked to remove them.
- Leave the plot in good condition, free from rubbish and structures if you decide to terminate your membership.

2. Use your allotment only for the approved purpose:

This means you must:

- Use your Allotment plot only for growing produce. You cannot keep livestock and you are not permitted to cut or prune trees for timber.
- However, you are permitted to prune fruit trees on your plot.
- Cultivate your plot for the benefit of you and your family and friends. Allotments are not to be used for trade, business or retail.
- Cultivate the plot yourself. No part of the plot should be sub-let to any other person.
- Get permission to locate any building or structure on the plot (see Section 6). No buildings on site are to be used for sleeping accommodation and you must not install any hard surface or patio on your plot.

3. Be a responsible allotment holder:

This means you must:

- Always ensure that the gate to the allotments is locked after entering or leaving the site.
- Keep your keys for your own use. Do not give site keys to other people or allow them to visit the site unsupervised.
- Ensure your dog **remains on a leash and on your plot at all times.**
- Closely supervise any children you bring with you, ensuring they remain on your plot. The allotment site is not a playground.
- Avoid causing nuisance, damage or annoyance to other allotment tenants or the residents of surrounding property/land.
- Nuisance could include the use of bad or abusive language, bringing and drinking alcohol onto the allotments, playing loud music or lighting bonfires when your neighbours' are working their plots.
- Ensure no noxious, dangerous or carcinogenic materials are present on the allotment plot. The use of materials containing asbestos is not permitted.
- Be courteous to other plot holders.
- Make sure your plot is kept in a tidy condition. You are not allowed to bring domestic refuse onto the site nor allow any waste materials to accumulate on the plot.
- Retain all topsoil and subsoil on your plot. You may not remove or sell any mineral, gravel, sand or clay from the allotment site.
- Visit the site only in daylight hours. Do not visit before sunrise or after sunset.

4. Reduce, re-use and recycle

This means you should:

- Compost all soft vegetable waste on your plot, compost and recycle as much as possible
- Use water sparingly, harvest rainwater where possible. Consider collecting rain water in water tanks or water butts for use on your plot. Use the well water before using water from the dip tanks. Well water has no chemicals and is much better for your plants

5. Get appropriate permission from the Association when required:

You will need formal permission from the Committee for:

- Planting trees (other than small growing fruit trees) on an allotment site
- Building a shed, greenhouse, pond, fence or any other structure on the allotment

6. Ensure payments and records are up to date

This means you must:

- Pay your rent promptly when you receive your notification of payment
- Contact the Association if you change your address or email address
- Tell both the Association and the Site Secretary when you decide to give up your plot. We do have waiting lists for our site.

What happens if I breach the rules?

Your membership may be terminated if you do not comply with the Association Rules. Depending on how you have breached the rules this will happen in one of two ways:

1. Breach of rules, including non-payment of rent

The Association will give you one month's notice in writing that remedial action needs to be undertaken. If the remedial action is not undertaken, then your tenancy will be terminated.

2. Theft from any allotment plot by the tenant or any person associated with or invited by them onto the allotment site

Your Tenancy Agreement will terminate immediately and without notice.

2.0 PAYING FOR YOUR PLOT

Allotment Payments

Payment requests for plots will be issued by the Secretary together with a Members Agreement and Rules which must be signed as this is your Tenancy Agreement. Payment requests and Members Agreement and Rules are issued annually in December for payment in January. The Allotment year runs from the 1st of March each year.

How is my payment calculated?

This is how we will calculate your payment:

<i>Joining Fee (new members only)</i>	£10.00
<i>If you are holding a full plot, then the subscription is</i>	£40.00
<i>If you are holding a half plot, then the subscription is</i>	£20.00
<i>If you are holding a quarter plot, then the subscription is</i>	£10.00
<i>If you are holding one and a half plots, then the subscription is</i>	£60.00
<i>If you are holding a starter plot, then the subscription is</i>	£10.00
<i>If you are an OAP, then the subscription for a full plot is</i>	£30.00
<i>If you are an OAP, then the subscription for a half plot is</i>	£15.00

If you are allocated a mobility bed, or are a charity or a school then there is no subscription

- At the Committee's discretion, members who take on an allotment during the year may be charged on a pro rata basis
- Payment requests are issued in December for payment by the end of January each year.
- One payment request will be issued per plot – normally by email
- You will be notified of any annual rental increase should the AGM decide that an increase is necessary before the end of the calendar year.

When members receive a payment request, payment methods will be clearly listed on the notification. The Association prefers payments to be made by BACS. Details will be provided when the annual payment request is made.

3.0 WHO TO CONTACT

Field Secretary

Once you have signed your Member's Agreement and Rules form and paid the relevant fee, one allotment site key will be issued to you by the Field Secretary. Your deposit will be refunded on return of the key to the Field Secretary at the end of your tenancy. Replacements for lost keys will be charged at £25.00

If you have any queries about your plot, allotment site or allotment-holding in general, the Field Secretary will be able to help you in the first instance.

Allotment Association

Most allotment sites have an Allotment Association. We do have an Association which elects Officers and a Committee annually to administer Cutteslowe Allotments. The Association can be of great benefit to you as an allotment tenant, providing advice and information. Any enquiries concerning membership can be made via our Secretary, Ian Sheppard.

The Committee

Cutteslowe Allotment Association Committee

Chairman: *Rob Davies*
Secretary: *Diana Young*
Field Secretary: *Carrie Dodd*

Members: *Nigel Howard, Dave Chen, Alison Miell, Dave Williams, Rachael Croft, Matt Todd, Deborah Crawshaw, Ian Sheppard, Bob Findlay Ross and Maya Buchanan, Clare Honeysett.*

Contact: *info@cuttesloweallotments.co.uk*

Web Site: *www.cuttesloweallotments.co.uk*

Do please look at our web site as there are several useful articles on topics such as fertilizers, frost maps, blight, etc. We also post minutes of Committee meetings, AGM Reports and important dates.

4.0 GETTING STARTED

As soon as your Members Agreement and Rules form has been signed by all parties, your tenancy has officially started. New tenants should begin work on their allotment without delay, in accordance with the Association's Rules. There is high demand for allotments and failure to cultivate your plot could result in the termination of your tenancy. The Rules for new members starting to cultivate their plots are thus:

g) New members will have a probation period of 12 months and be expected to cultivate 25% within 3 months, 50% within 6 months and 75% by 12 months with the fallow 25% being managed effectively (see para.3 page 14)

Marking your plot

In order to assist in the administration of allotments, do make sure that your plot number is clearly displayed in an obvious position on your plot. You should not move any marker pegs nor extend your plot beyond its borders at the time of initial occupancy.

Basic guidance

- Be prepared to give a regular commitment of time – **a little and often is best**
- Only work the soil when conditions are favourable. If the soil is too wet, you will do more harm than good by trying to work the soil
- Work your plot to maintain soil fertility. Add compost from your bins and manure if you can. The impact of good fertility on the quality and quantity of your vegetables is dramatic!
- Take account of the weather and seasons of the year
- Digging in late autumn will take advantage of better soil conditions and winter frosts to help break down the soil
- A layer of compost or manure in late autumn helps to suppress weeds and will add structure and nutrients to your soil ready for planting in the spring
- Remove debris and weeds from your plot: Take all rubbish, plastics and non-compostable material home
- **DIG OUT** all perennial weeds and their roots (bindweed, nettles, dandelions, docks, horse tail and thistles)
- **DIG IN** all annual weeds that have not formed seed heads
- When using chemical weed killers please note that our Association has banned the use of residual weed killers. The only chemical weed killer you can use is glyphosate. Organic weed killers are permitted. Please be respectful of neighbouring plot holders when spraying and always follow the manufacturers recommendations

What tools do you need?



The basic minimum requirement:

Watering Can, Dutch Hoe, Fork, Spade, Rake and Trowel

Choose your tools with care as low-priced bargains are not always a sound investment. Make sure the weight, shape and size, and balance are right for you. You should be able to use them with comfort and ease. Digging can cause back problems so a little and often is a good way to start. For people with difficulties, there are specialist tools to make the task easier.

There are some tools and wheelbarrows for community use in the green Community Shed close to mobility beds should you need them. They are kept in the poly tunnel. There are also community watering cans left by the dip tanks in the summer which you are welcome to use. There is a flat-topped trolley kept by the notice board and a smaller yellow trolley if you need to move heavier items over a longer distance.

Please ensure you clean and return all borrowed items to their original location once you've finished using them.

Storage of Tools

Some larger plots have sheds for tool storage. There are also lockable, gardening tool boxes and cupboards that can be bought on-line or in DIY stores that save space and are probably better for use on smaller plots. They will allow you to store your tools securely and out of the weather. Some plots share a shed so do check with your neighbours to find out if such an arrangement is in place.

Poly Tunnel

We do have a very good Poly Tunnel which is for all our members to share. We would like to encourage use of the poly tunnel. There is a potting table, a large, raised area with capillary matting, plant labels, pens and reference books. The Poly Tunnel is great for getting seeds underway early in the year and brilliant later in the season for plants that thrive in warmer conditions such as cucumbers, cucamelons, tomatoes, peppers, chilies, aubergines, water melons and strawberries.

5.0 QUICK PLANTING GUIDE

Where to start?

Prior to digging, overgrown weedy ground should be cleared by scything or strimming and the cut material added to either your compost heap or the Association's compost heap located by the gate. The remaining surface weeds should then be dug-in and where perennial weed roots can be identified these should be dug out, dried and burnt or placed in a sealed black plastic bag. If you are unsure, ask a neighbouring plot holder or committee members. Topsoil should never be removed.

If you are not planting immediately, once a section has been dug over, use a compost or leaf mold mulch to about 75mm thick or a porous polythene membrane. Either method will help to suppress annual weed growth.

See Section 7 for information on making compost

What to grow?

Choose vegetables you enjoy eating. Consider vegetable types that the family eats a lot of or those that are generally more expensive to buy from a shop. You need only to look around the site to see what can be grown. Ask our Site Secretary or other plot holders what varieties grow best on your allotment site.

The use of a cold frame or greenhouse increases the range of fruit and vegetables you can grow and extends the growing season, however if you want to place a greenhouse, shed or polytunnel on your plot, you must **get permission from the Committee** before installation.

Get to know your soil type

If you know your soil conditions, you can choose crops that will do well in that soil. For instance, root crops will often not grow well in heavy clay soil. Brassicas (cabbage, sprouts, cauliflowers, broccoli, swedes, and turnips) will not grow well in sandy soils.

Allotment plots will have a varying depth of topsoil. Below the topsoil is the subsoil which, in Cutteslowe, is generally a mix of clays and shale.

Most topsoil on the plots will have had "compost" added to it during its life, but some may not have or may consist of light/heavy clay. This can be improved by adding well-rotted manure or compost at different times of the year and in different sections depending on the types of crop you intend to grow.

Allotments are usually used for vegetable and fruit production but a small area can also be used for flowers, all of which will need to be kept in a neat and weed free condition.

Most vegetables will be happy in a neutral or thereabouts soil, (between 6.5 and 7 on the pH scale). The soil type can be checked using a simple testing kit available from most garden or DIY centres. A more acid soil can be achieved by the addition of manure, and an alkaline soil by the addition of lime.

Crops that prefer an **acid** soil include potatoes, carrot, runner beans, blueberry and raspberry. Crops that prefer an **alkaline** soil include cabbage, asparagus, beetroot, chard and strawberry.

5.0 Crop rotation

Crop rotation is used to prevent the build-up of pests and diseases in the soil. It will also replenish nutrients. Each year the crops should be rotated through each section so eventually the soil throughout the plot is improved but at the same time the conditions meet the requirements of the crop being grown. Divide your plot into 3 sections.

Section 1 - used to grow brassicas (cabbage, sprouts, cauliflower, broccoli, swede, radish and turnips).

Section 2 - used for root crops (carrots, parsnip, potatoes, salsify, Jerusalem artichokes and beetroot).

Section 3 - used to grow legumes (peas, beans) or celery, onions, peppers, spinach and sweetcorn.

Section	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
1	Brassicas	Root Crops	Legumes and Other Crops
2	Root Crops	Legumes and Other Crops	Brassicas
3	Legumes and Other Crops	Brassicas	Root Crops

Fruit

Green Manure

Green manures are crops sown onto land to maintain its structure and fertility. They can be used at any time of year but are particularly valuable in covering ground over winter, preventing compaction and nutrient loss. As with most things the subject can become very complex.

Some organic gardeners can combine green manuring with careful crop rotation and composting in such a way that no additional input of fertilizers and manures are required; to others they may just be an occasional convenience.

Wildlife on Allotments

Allotment sites and plots can be a haven for wildlife. Our site has hedges and trees around it. Planting of flowers and diverse crops attracts insects. Log piles can attract toads and other beneficial insects. Bat, bird, bumble bee, butterfly and ladybird nest boxes can help to increase the population. We do have a small number of beautiful grass snakes on the site which are harmless. Please be careful with plastic netting at ground level as grass snakes can become entangled in the netting. We do have visits from foxes, muntjac deer and badgers (which will eat your sweetcorn!). Rabbits also are resident and can be a nuisance. Some plot holders have erected wire fences for crop protection.

Be aware that pigeons can decimate cabbages and brassicas and thrushes and blackbirds amongst others enjoy fresh soft fruit, so you will need to protect your crops with netting or fleece. We also have rabbits on the site so wire netting will help to protect your plot.

6.0 GREENHOUSES, SHEDS, POLYTUNNELS AND OTHER STRUCTURES

If you want to place a shed, greenhouse, polytunnel, fruit cage or any other structure on your plot you will need permission from the Committee before installation.

If permission is granted, this will be on the understanding that the materials and location of the structure are agreed with our Site Secretary and that the structure should be removed and any damage to the plot made good if the Association subsequently gives notice to remove the structure.

7.0 MAINTAINING A HEALTHY PLOT

Composting

Making compost from garden waste is one of the best things you can do. It's easy and costs nothing. It will help you reduce pollution by cutting down on landfill and your plants will grow healthier and look better for it. It will save money on fertilizers too.

Composting ensures that valuable nutrients are returned to the ground and by doing so, completes the cycle – putting back some of what has been taken out. You don't have to be an expert, composting just happens – it's a natural process.

There are several proprietary bins and compost makers on the market; however, a simple bin can easily be made from timber. Instructions for construction are available in many gardening books. Most plots have either wooden pallet compost bins or plastic compost bins. You can also put green materials in the Community Compost bins by the gate. **DO NOT put any perennial weeds into the bins or any blighted tomatoes or potatoes.** There is a list and photos on the bins which identify perennial weeds and a fact sheet on our web site that gives information on blight.

Alternatively, a simple free-standing heap (to maximum of 1.2m high and wide) is good enough for the purposes of most plot-holders. It is best to assemble the material in mixed layers. Various additives may be included and spread between layers to "start" the heap e.g. animal manures, nitrogenous fertiliser, or simply a bucket of material from a previous heap.

Moisten the heap during construction. A heap of this size will heat up quickly, reaching its maximum temperature in about a week, and will have cooled-off in about a month; the heap should now be turned, moving the outer layers to the middle, and there will be a second, less intense, heating. The resulting compost will be ready to use in 5 to 6 months from the heap's initial construction. Generally, the longer you leave the compost the better it will be. Leaves and woody material can be cut or shredded into small pieces and added to the heap or used directly as a mulch.

WEEDS

Couch grass and Bindweed etc. are best dried and burned or sealed, wet, in a black plastic bag and allowed to sweat for several months before their decomposing remains are added to the compost heap. Alternatively, simply take them home and put them in your green waste bin.

8.0 Water Use

The Association has a hand pumped water well and dip tanks fed by mains water. If possible, members should draw water from the well in the first instance and preferably before using dip tanks (see below). Water from the well is free, contains no chemicals is not chlorinated and is therefore better for plants and more environmentally friendly.

31) The Association also has mains water supplied via Dip Tanks on the site. Members are requested to use water from the Dip Tanks in a reasonable manner.

32) The use of hosepipes, pumps or any modification to convey water to a plot from the Dip Tanks is strictly forbidden.

33) Water in the Dip Tanks must not be contaminated with any chemical or fertilizer.

33) The water supply to the tanks will be turned off from November to April each year.

34) The Committee reserves the right to apply a water levy to all members should the cost of providing mains water become too expensive.

Collecting rainwater

You can collect rainwater in water butts on your plot. This will reduce the need for you to carry water across the site and conserve the water in our well and dip tanks. Water is a very precious resource in summer, so please use it sparingly.

9.0 ALLOTMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

- **Chemicals/Pesticides** – should be stored in their original container and used in accordance with the manufacturers' guidelines.
- **First Aid Kit** – It is recommended that you have a first aid kit to hand when working on your plot.
- **Hygiene** – All produce should be thoroughly washed to remove all traces of soil before cooking or eating.
- **Machinery** - If using any form of garden machinery please ensure you wear appropriate safety clothing and equipment
- **Asbestos** – No asbestos should be used in any form on your allotment plot.
- **Fences** – Do ensure there are no sharp edges or wires on your fences

10.0 CULTIVATION & GENERAL RULES

General

- 1) The Member agrees to respect and obey the constitution of Cutteslowe Allotment Association.
- 2) Members must sign an annual Members Agreement which serves as their agreement to the rules and pay the annual subscription within one month of the renewal date. (Note rule 21)
- 3) The plot or any portion of it shall not be sub-let by the plot holder.
- 4) The plot shall be used for growing vegetables, fruit or flowers and for no other purpose

- 5) The plot cannot be used for any trade or business except for the sale of surplus produce.
- 6) Members must keep their plot tidy and in a reasonable state of cultivation which includes the following **minimum** requirements:

Members must ensure that their plot is managed in a way that keeps the plot in a reasonable state of cultivation. The definition of 'reasonable state of cultivation' is that at least 75% of the plot should be prepared for or growing produce during the main growing season (March to October). This requirement does not apply during the winter period. Any uncultivated part of the plot should be managed to ensure the following:

- a) Removal of weed seed-heads before the seed has set.
- b) Control of weeds that might spread through the extension of roots or by generating new plants growing from tips in contact with the soil.
- c) Removal of long grass or detritus that is likely to harbour pests.
- d) Keeping paths free of hazards and cut vegetation
- e) Members who fall below the expected standards of cultivation will be given the opportunity to remedy the situation. If it is felt by the committee, during the regular site inspections, that the situation is not improving an initial warning letter will give a 2-week notice period during which remediation should take place. A second and final warning letter giving 2 weeks' notice will be forwarded to the member(s) failure to act on which may result in the termination of the membership or alternatively, and at the committees' discretion, an offer may be made to reduce the size of the plot for your use.

Notwithstanding the provision detailed in Rule 6 e should, in the opinion of the Committee, there be a failure to maintain the expected level of cultivation which causes a detrimental impact on other plots or any matter relating to the Association, the Committee reserves the right to take action to remedy the situation.

The Committee will endeavour to notify the plot holder of any intended action.

- f) Members must not deposit weeds on any part of the site unless in a compost heap and not against any boundary fence.
- g) New members will have a probation period of 12 months and be expected to cultivate 25% within 3 months, 50% within 6 months and 100% by 12 months
- 7) Adjoining pathways must be kept tidy and free of obstacles.
- 8) Members must keep any sheds, greenhouses, fruit cages, fences (maximum height 1.5 metres) gates etc in safe repair.
- 9) Fences should be of post and wire to a max height of 1.5 metres.
- 10) Members must get the Committee's written approval for any installation of sheds or greenhouses confirming the size, materials and sitting of sheds or greenhouses. Installation should be built on shed lines where applicable and not impair or shade adjacent plots (half plots must also adhere to these conditions)

11) Only dwarf fruit trees (Root stock MM106) may be planted once members have obtained the written consent of the Committee. Fruit trees must be kept to max height of 4.0 metres and must fall within your plot boundary.

12) Members must follow Oxford City Councils Code of Practice on Bonfires (see notice board)

13) Members must not deposit any rubbish or building materials on their plot or the site.

14) Members must not be a nuisance to neighbours. Any complaints must be made in writing to the Secretary.

15) Only Members dogs are permitted on site and **must be kept on a lease when not contained within the member's own plot.**

16) The entrance gate must always be kept locked after both entering and leaving the site. Keys should not be given or loaned to non-members without the permission of the Committee. Due to security concerns any member copying or giving keys to a non-member will have their membership of the Association revoked.

17) Petrol, oil, lubricants and any other inflammable liquid, chemicals and equipment must be stored safely at Member's own risk.

18) Members must not trespass upon other plots, take crops, produce, implements, water or other items

19) Children and young people under the age of 16 must always be supervised by an adult at all times and made aware of the dangers on the site and not allowed to disturb other members. The Association will not accept responsibility if children or young people are injured through non-compliance with Rules 18 and or 17

20) Members who change address or contact details must advise the Secretary to allow updating of records.

21) Any member who is one month in arrears with their subscription shall be held to have ceased to be a member, unless an explanation in writing of extenuating circumstances is received by the Committee. Failure to pay within the stated time and without informing the Committee will be taken that the person concerned no longer wishes to be a member of the Association and their plot will be offered for re-letting. Tools, equipment and sheds left on the plot after a one-month period will be disposed of by the Association and a charge for any excessive rubbish left on the plot may be levied.

22) New members who join the Association six months after the subscription date may pay half the subscription for that year.

23) Members will be requested to pay a refundable deposit at a rate set by the committee for all keys pertaining to the site and pay the full cost of replacement keys if lost and requested to pay a new deposit for the replacement key, on termination of membership. No refund will be payable for the lost key only the second key. Members giving up their membership must hand all keys pertaining to the plot site to a member of the committee and will receive any key deposit.

27) Members must give the Secretary 7 days' notice of any items for the agenda of any General Meeting.

28) Members must not use any Total or Residual Weed killers or wildlife poisons on the plots or site.

29) The use of vermin poisons may be used with restrictions and the approval of the committee.

Water Use

30) The Association has mains water supply via Dip Tanks on the site, members are requested to use water from the Dip Tanks in a reasonable manner.

31) The use of hosepipes, pumps or any modification to convey water to a plot from the Dip Tanks is forbidden.

32) Water in the Dip Tanks must not be contaminated with any chemical, fertilizer or soil.

33) The water supply to the tanks will be turned off from November to April each year.

34) The Committee reserves the right to apply a water levy to all members should the cost of providing mains water too expensive.

11.0 WORK PARTIES

The Association holds work parties to ensure our site is well maintained. There will be three Membership Work Parties each year. **All members are required to attend at least two Work Parties and spend two hours per work party assisting in site maintenance.**

Members can opt out of this requirement at the start of the year but will be required to pay a £20.00 'Opt Out Levy' at the same time as their annual subscription fee is paid. Failure to attend at least two Work Parties or alternatively pay the 'Opt Out Levy' will result in membership being revoked.

12.0 Further Information:

Local Libraries have many books on vegetable and fruit growing.

Very handy books which covers all aspects of growing vegetables are:

The Vegetable & Herb Expert: by Dr D G Hessayon

or

The Allotment Specialist (Specialist Series)

The Allotments and Gardens Council (UK)

www.theallotmentsandgardenscounciluk.org.uk

Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations

<http://www.odfaa.com/>

The National Allotment Society (NSALG)

www.nsalg.org.uk/about-us/

Royal Horticultural Society

www.rhs.org.uk

Oxford City Council Allotments

www.oxford.gov.uk/

Thompson & Morgan

www.thompson-morgan.com/vegetables

Sutton Seeds

www.suttons.co.uk

Potato Varieties

www.varieties.potato.org.uk

Harrod Horticulture

<http://www.harrodhorticultural.com>

Bunkers Hill Garden Centre

NOTES

