

Secretary's Report:

Dear Members

- Firstly – apologies that we were unable to hold an AGM last year. By April we were faced with significant restrictions on meeting and by that time not everyone was either familiar with, or equipped for, meeting virtually using Zoom.
- From memory, 2019 was a good year overall, productive and with a helpful committee with good representation from both sites. We managed to hold a few social events, which were well organised and well-attended – thanks to all involved in organising them.
- 2020 and early 2021 have, by comparison, been challenging to say the least. Huge thanks are due to those who stepped up and helped with organising the sites in such a way that we were able to stay open and safe during the worst of the lockdown restrictions.
- Flooding before and after Christmas this year was unfortunate and we still hope that the planned Oxford Flood Alleviation scheme will, when finished, offer some degree of protection. We were pleased to see the newly formed WhatsApp groups being used to track down and reclaim items that had floated away to other parts of the site!
- The recently revamped website continues to provide members with information and resources – many thanks to all those who have contributed items of interest, especially Ally's blogs! If there are any improvements you would like to see please let us know.
- As a member of O&DFAA we have been involved in several Fed activities including another Potato Fair at WOCA in 2019, producing guidance on keeping allotment sheds secure (on our website), and continuing the process of renegotiating our lease with Oxford City Council which is due for renewal later this year. Your secretary is also Co-Chair of O&DFAA and has been heavily involved in the process by which allotment associations across Oxford are considering a change to cooperative status.
- As the Treasurer will confirm shortly, we continue to operate on a stable financial footing and now have sufficient reserves to cope with whatever the future throws at us.
- As Secretary I plan to stand again this year for what will be my final year. This is in order to allow us to complete the 21 year lease discussions with Oxford City Council and to complete the process of moving us to a Cooperative status, should this meeting approve the proposal.