

West Oxford Allotments

Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotment Association



Allotment Secretary's Report 2024-2025:

Dear Members

- 2024 to 2025 has brought several challenges – good as well as bad. Nobody expected a flood as early as September of last year and I imagine that many of you, like me, we caught out and lost crops (my late main potatoes 🥔). Annoyingly, the floods seemed to persist longer than most years – proving difficult to get started in the Spring. However, judging from the various photos shared on WhatsApp, harvests have generally been good. We managed to hold a few social events on each site, which were well organised and well-attended – thanks to all involved in organising them.
- At risk of repeating what I said at the AGM a year ago, I still believe that the planned Oxford Flood Alleviation scheme will, when finished, offer some degree of protection. The Secretary of State confirmed the Environment Agency's Compulsory Purchase Order in May, and they anticipate that construction will start in late 2026.
- We managed to persuade those responsible for the Oxford Rail Station upgrade that using some of the Twenty Pound site as a bus turning circle would be unsafe to members, disruptive and incredibly costly to reinstate afterwards.
- With both the website and active WhatsApp groups on both sites, we have continued to provide members with information and resources – many thanks to all those who have contributed items of interest.
- As a member of ODFAA I have been involved in several Fed activities including the process of renegotiating our lease with Oxford City Council which is still over-due for renewal. I will update members at the AGM.
- Your secretary is also Co-Chair of ODFAA and has been heavily involved in the process by which allotment associations across Oxford are considering a change to cooperative status. This has been delayed by the ongoing issues with OCC granting a new lease.
- 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. Nevertheless, we have incurred several unexpected costs over the year and will need to consider raising the rent for 2026 to 2027.
- I have been asked to remind members that children need to be supervised – a plot holder has complained that a family has gone on her plot and created damage.
- As Secretary, I was planning to stand down as I had hoped that we would have completed the 21-year lease discussions with Oxford City Council and the process of moving us to a Cooperative status. Neither of these are complete and therefore I am willing to stand again this year.

Nick Jackson
OSTNB Association Secretary