

# The Marlow Allotments Association



## Minutes of the fortieth Annual General Meeting – 02.11.2023 at 7.00pm, New Hall

### **Attendance:**

Incoming Committee: Chair: Huw Stevenson, Treasurer: Maren Talbot, Secretary: Sylvia Miller,

Minutes Secretary: John Stilliard

Committee Members: Denise Bagge, Ian Brown, Pete Cooper, Fred Tillier & Richard Harker

Honoured Guests: Marlow Town Mayor, Councillor David Brown

Council Officers: Hilary Martin (Town Clerk) & Debbie Abbott

Apologies: Beate & Mark Billington, Mr & Mrs Bochkareva, Ann & Colin Bowles, Sally Brooks, Mr & Mrs J Brown, Liz Bunt, Juliette Chanoir, Peter Edmonds, Roger Flavell, Robert Frost, Andi Gallagher, Stephanie Galloway, Claire & Martin Green, Sarah & Guy Greenhouse, Keith Harker, Anthea Hickman, Tim Holland, Rev. David Howell, Elizabeth Jones, Sue & Tony Keen, The Kirby Family, Sam Ezra Loose, Michaela Misakova, Colin Naphine, Jennifer & John Prowse, Chris O'Connell, Bernie Oliver, Susan Penny, Scott Pickard, Doug Pounds, Hilary & Trevor Pounds, Frank Schoofs, Ann Stewart, Caroline West.

MAA Members and Guests: Mary Abramstev, Steven & Claire Back, Jodie Barton, Bernard Carter, Richard Bailey, Freda Benlamlih, Denis & Vera Bird, Mary Bunker, Peter England, Catherine Harker, John & Yvonne Holland, David & Lyn Howell, Andy King, Phyllis Lee, Geoff Lomas, Richard Maidment, Bill & Elizabeth Masser, Graham & Jenny Miles, Peter Morgan, John Nixon, Daphne Roberts, Andy & Nicola Ross, Peter & Gill Smith, Shan Stephens, Martin Summerfield, Lesly & Peter Wellington.

(SM) H&S Fire Safety instruction – Please note where the Emergency Exits are & where the fire extinguishers are in the Main Hall & location of the toilets. Phones were requested to be turned off.

(HS) - Introduced Minutes Secretary – John Stilliard

### **(HS) -Welcome speech and toast by Chair**

Good evening and welcome to all attending tonight at the New Hall, Pugin Rooms, St Peter's Church. We are here by courtesy of Marlow Town Council and extend a special welcome on the top table to Marlow Town Mayor, Councillor David Brown, and, in the audience to Town Clerk Hilary Martin and Debbie Abbott from MTC who both play an active role with responsibility for the allotments. Thanks to John Stilliard for taking the Minutes this evening.

We have opened proceedings with the provision of a celebratory drink as this year marks the 40th Anniversary of MAA. Members and non-members alike are welcome this evening and I invite you all to enjoy a drink in toasting the continued health of the MAA.

A Toast was made by all present to the Association.

(HS) - I will now invite Mayor David Brown to address the meeting and present prizes from this summer's competition. There will then be an opportunity for tenants to raise questions directly with the Council members here tonight. The AGM will follow.

### **Councillor David Brown, Marlow Town Mayor - Speech followed by prize giving ....**

Thank you for joining us today at the Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Association. It's an honour to be here as your Town Mayor, and I'm delighted to share in this celebration of our vibrant allotment community and to hand out the awards from this year's allotment competition.

First and foremost, I want to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you who devote your time and effort to these allotments. Your dedication to cultivating the land, nurturing our environment, and fostering a sense of community is commendable. The fact that we have a waiting list of 20 individuals eager to obtain an allotment is a testament to the value of the allotments.

The close collaboration between the Town Council and the Allotment Association has been working well. Regular meetings and discussions have allowed us to address ongoing works, tackle challenges, and identify opportunities for improvement. This partnership underscores the importance we place on maintaining and enhancing our allotment spaces for current and future generations.

I would also like to take a moment to express our appreciation to the following members - Sylvia Miller, who has been instrumental in ensuring that the available plots are allocated efficiently and fairly. Denise Bagge who has been assisting us with identifying trees on both allotment sites that may require future works.

As we look ahead to the future, I'm optimistic about the continued growth and prosperity of our Allotments and I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and passion you bring to our allotments. Together, you are making a significant difference in our community. I'm confident that, working together, we will achieve great things.

### **Award Prizes**

I am delighted to have been asked to announce the winners of this year's Allotments Competitions. Their remarkable efforts have set an example for us all, and have shown that passion, care and a little bit of dirt under the fingernails can accomplish incredible things. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to everyone who took part in this event.

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WINNERS: FP – First Prize: Denise Bagge & Bernard Carter, Second Prize: Sue Ayres, Third Prize: Fred & Dave Tillier, Best Beginner Martin Summerfield & Jodie Foster. HH – Joint First Prize: Sam Loose & Andy Ross, Third Prize: Richard & Nicole Hockly and Best Beginner: Steven Back. The prizes were awarded & photos of each prize winner were taken with the Mayor in turn.

### (HS) – Any questions to the Marlow Town Mayor or Marlow Town Council Officers

Bernard Carter: Said that the TC seemed keen on enhancing the allotments and that this implied a spend. Given this what was on the TC's list of things to do? Hilary said that the finances were very tight, but there was currently £2,000 a year was allocated for enhancements. Currently the £2,000 is planned to be used for clearing the derelict sheds near the Doctors House at FP and removing the asbestos etc as well as fence work and tree repair work. The TC does use community payback teams to do work on the sites. SM said that £500 had also been made available and that this was going to be used to provide seating at the main entrances to both sites Richard Bailey: asked if overgrown vacated plots could be tidied up by the payback team to make more appealing for new tenants, now the year end has change from late Autumn to Spring it makes it more difficult to them to start work. He also mentioned a scheme in Fleet where new tenants pay a fee £50.00 which is only refunded once they have cleared their plot. Debbie responded that plots are re-let ASAP all year round not just at renewal time. SM said that this would not be fair as some plots would be handed over in good conditions whilst others would need a lot of work. The chair stressed the need for feedback from allotment holders.

(HS) – Thanked the Council for attending and announce the start MAA AGM

### Chairman's Speech

At the last count during the last membership year which concluded 2 days ago we had approximately 130 MAA members across the HH and FP sites. There is the facility for anyone present who is not yet a member of the MAA to join this evening. Please see one of the Committee afterwards if you eluded them on the way in! The greater membership adds voice to our conversations with Marlow Town Council on the issues raised by you, their tenants.

Those of you with a good memory who made it to last year's AGM. will recall that I took over the role of Chairman last year from Juliette Chanoir, who stood down owing to family commitments, and having moved 'outside the parish' she has also relinquished her allotment plots (reluctantly, I am sure). Nevertheless, and despite the demands of a young family, she has continued supporting MAA with an ongoing commitment to the website and its maintenance. We are most grateful to Juliette for her efforts and, although she is unable to be with us this evening, would like her to accept this small token of our appreciation. A gift of fine French Champagne, which will be to be delivered to her by Sylvia.

The weather treated us differently this year, after 2022's hosepipe ban, with a cold start delaying many planting plans, I have no doubt. The recent precipitation and temperature drops following a mild September have, perhaps, brought autumn on more quickly than I, and maybe others, was prepared for. We must now pick and choose our moments to be readying our plots for the winter.

I mentioned Juliette's contribution earlier. As Chair I must also extend personal thanks, and do so on behalf of all tenants and members, to the other committee members for their continued hard work keeping the overall allotmenting process running across the 2 sites and, especially, to Sylvia and Maren with their particular responsibilities on the Secretarial and Treasury front.

Following liaison with Debbie Abbott a plot, when vacated, is usually shown to a new applicant in a matter of days in order to keep occupation levels up. Organisations all require a lot of unseen background work. In the case of the Foxes Piece and Hanging Hill sites the simple tasks of buying seeds, turning up, digging, planting and harvesting all run much more smoothly for the rest of us, because of the work of your Committee.

There remains scope for additional members on the Committee, from both allotment sites, and interested members should make themselves known. In particular, the Committee consider deputies would be useful for both secretarial and treasury roles, both to lighten some of the respective loads falling on Sylvia and Maren, and to be ready to stand in on an emergency.

(SM) - Apologies for absence from members and tenants: As listed above

(HS) - Minutes from AGM 2022 & matters arising from it: No comments

(HS) – Acceptance of the minutes was Proposed by: Maren Talbot Seconded by: Denis Bird

### (DB) - Report of pruning and care of trees and shrubs:

Back in Autumn 2021 the Allotment Association asked the Town Council to undertake an ongoing of program of work to get to grips with neglected trees and shrubs on both allotment sites.

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This has meant dealing with trees overhanging plots that may be a danger to the tenants and make it difficult to grow certain crops. It has meant tackling overgrown shrubs and hedges that may have formed a solid wall of brambles and other creeping vines. As well as looking after specimen or protected trees that are not the responsibility of a particular tenant but which need to be regularly reviewed.

By now we should all have seen evidence around the allotment sites of work done by the Town Council staff, the Community payback team and professional contractors to tackle these issues - but there is still a lot to do.

Q Who has seen work done near them this past year? A fair number replied that they had.

Next Steps - Over the past summer a number of tenants have identified areas for work. The Town Council have been making a photo record of these jobs and are currently getting individualised pricing from a tree surgeon. They will then be working out a programme of work for this winter that can be done within the budget.

So, if there are any problem trees or shrubs near you, please take the opportunity this evening to come and have a word with me or send an email to the Town Council with details and some photos if you can.

Finally, it is important to say that we also have a role to play – we need to avoid planting problem trees that will be a problem in the future and we must keep trees and shrubs on our plots under control. The winter is a good time to review the trees and shrubs that you are responsible for and take action before they become a problem. In addition, paths must be kept clear. Question: Bernard Carter: What is the time scale & budget allowance that can be used, this work needs to be rolling into future years, is this on a 10 year time plan?

Geoff Lomas- mentioned a very reasonable priced tree surgeon that he used to remove an overgrown Damson tree & will supply DB with the details.

### **(SM) Secretary's Report**

Welcome to all you lovely hard working Allotment Gardeners, this is my report of the main activities on both sites over the past year, I will try to keep this short and as interesting as possible. The weather this year has been very different from the drought of last year and a variety of crop have been very productive. Whilst the slugs and ants have not been too much of a nuisance, (until the past few weeks), a new pest has proved able to by-pass the excellent spiky defence system that courgette & cucumber plants have – woodlice have been in abundance this year. I found a large family inside the remains of a cucumber and several have been attached to courgettes on more than one occasion. Apart from Commercial products, apparently Essential Oils either Peppermint, Lavendar or Tea Tree Oil diluted with water and sprayed near plants can act as a deterrent, clearly not eggshells!! Enough fun now to get on with my Report.

New Tenants – Over the past year there have been 19 @ FP & 24 @ HH, including four on the Triangle, sadly since Covid the Project has been disbanded and the attendees have found elsewhere to follow this activity.

Waiting lists & vacant plots – currently the waiting list stands at 18, throughout the year as plots are given up, I arrange viewings as soon as possible, once the departing tenant has confirmed to the Council that they have removed all of their possessions. This enables the new tenant to start work on the desolate overgrown area of their 'new plot' as soon as possible – their challenge begins!!

Competition – For the first time since Covid we were able to organise Allotment Competitions at both sites, the judges were escorted around each site by Committee members and the results have been announced this evening - congratulations to all the prize winners. Next year we hope to include a Junior Prize, as more children appear to be interested in the Allotment Challenge.

Bonfires – As a result of a request from the Committee, the Council agreed that tenants of both sites can have bonfires, in incinerators only, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 until 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Furthermore, at a recent Working Party Meeting with the Council, they agreed that in following of Winter in 2024, we will be allowed a 6-week period for bonfires from 01.11.2024 until 15.12.2024. Please ensure that only incinerators are used, dry material is burnt and no excessive smoke is created.

AWP Meetings – At the meeting last month, the Council agreed that we can have bonfires in the winter of 2024/2025 in November & December as previously mentioned. We also covered Plot re-numbering, which is planned for the coming year, as and when Council staff are available, MTC will probably work on one site at a time as this is a huge exercise to undertake. With reference to the playground area by FP site, we were advised that at present there are no updates regarding this desolate area. We were advised that there will be minor changes to the Tenancy Rules, which will be announced once they have been passed by the Main Council. Recently, there is available to MAA a small Council Grant valued £500.00 to be used to improve both sites benefiting all tenants. After much deliberation the Committee has agreed that these funds should be used to install seating inside the sites by each main entrance at both sites – FP entrance by the flats, Dedmere Rise & Newfield Road at HH entrances by Prospect Road, Chiltern Road & Berwick Road. These might be wooden or made from recycled material, I will be looking into availability, quality and prices. The Council has agreed that these can be fixed in with cement to prevent them walking away!! (hopefully this will raise a giggle).

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Winter Work party – There are plans for Winter Work parties to be organised on both sites, at Hanging Hill we will be checking the perimeter fencing to deter deer entering the site, plus a small clearance job & at FP there are plans for a second woodchip bay to be constructed by the entrance at the flats, plus the seating on both sites needs to be installed. These projects are organised during the winter months because with the plots being less demanding most volunteers can spare a couple of hours at the weekend to help. We need volunteers to help with this from both sites, please contact me to discuss.

Badgers – There has been reduced damage reported at HH this year, mainly strawberries, carrots & a few sweetcorn (but that might be deer, squirrels, rats or mice as there was no major damage to fencing & netting) this year they seem to have concentrated on worms & slugs, plus of course leaving deposits in large freshly dug holes. Quite a few tenants have constructed impressive barriers which have stood the Force of the Badger, please contact me if anyone needs advice from those experts.

Events – The Plants Stand held in May was extremely well turned out, many members came along and all seemed satisfied with their purchases, we plan to repeat this in May next year. There was a Summer BBQ at the Orchard which was well attended by tenants from both sites. In August Richard held another fascinating talk on Dahlias at FP, as always with new ideas and advice which was also well attended. We always learn something new every day and especially from Richard at these talks!!

Facebook & Website – as mentioned earlier Juliette, despite a busy home life, continues to maintain both Facebook & the Website passing on messages from Facebook and updating the website periodically. If any member has an article or story that may be of interest to other Allotment Gardeners, please let me have the details & I will pass these on to Juliet. Any 'Before & After' story of your new plot would be a great addition, this will show new tenants just what can be done with the overgrown jungle that they have just taken on.

Wood chippings – These are available free of charge to all tenants. There are four wood chip bays at Hanging Hill, and one at FP with plans for a second woodchip bay to be constructed, as already mentioned near the entrance by the Flats. Please note that the arrangement for the delivery of the woodchips is with only one local and trusted Company, other Companies are not allowed free access to the either site to deliver wood chips or any other material for security & safety reasons.

Communal Tables - There are Communal Tables & pot swap areas on both sites, at FP it is by the entrance at the flats and at HH by the entrance in Prospect Road, these have proved very popular, with Grateful Thanks to those individuals who constructed them – you know who you are (ask for applause). Tenants can leave surplus crop and seedlings along with other items that may be of use such as large white or black buckets (that would be me). Sadly, some tenants leave unwanted and sometimes unusable items, while it is possible that someone else may want the article, if these remain there for a week, please remove and dispose of the item.

Great Marlow School – Earlier this year a teacher from Great Marlow School contacted MAA, as they are planning to organise areas that the children can grow fruit, vegetables & herbs. Maren & I visited the school and they gave us a guided tour of the work that they have achieved so far and their plans to extend and modify certain areas. They were not ready to begin cultivation, however, we were able to supply advice and contact details to enable them to apply for funding support from Organisations that will help to progress their various projects. Hopefully by Spring they will be in a position that we can help and advise them with this project. If anyone would like to be part of this, please let me know.

Water Shut off – The water supply on both sites will be turned off for the winter period on 14<sup>th</sup> November, weather permitting.

Donated Tools & Equipment – We have received donations of a large quantity & variety of tools and equipment, which we give to members in return for a small donation to the Association. Some are here this evening & you can browse after the meeting, please speak to Maren regarding your choice and donation, alternatively, please contact a Committee Member for more details.

Committee Meetings – The Committee were able to meet four times this year. If any member would like to attend a Committee Meeting as an Observer or to join the Committee, please get in touch with me.

Thank you to the Committee members for their input and work supporting both allotment sites, especially Maren who toils for many hours over the accounts, preparing accurate and detailed reports of the Association funds.

Thank you to all the volunteers for help around both sites, for the newsletter deliveries, and to the those helping out this evening.

Thank you to MTC for their continual support of the Allotments Sites and organising the hire of this room, especially Debbie for her time & energy in running both sites, even coming out in the evenings and at the weekend to attend On Site emergencies, sometimes late at night.

Finally thank you all for coming along and I wish you all a productive crop for the coming year.

(HS) – Secretary's Report was accepted.

Proposed by: Richard Maidment    Seconded by: Geoff Lomas

### **(MT) Treasurer & Seed Secretary's Report:**

Dear Members, last year was a good year for membership with 128 tenants signing up as members of the Marlow Allotments Association (MAA). This is a little down on the year before (144) and we hope to do better this year. The benefits offered include:

- 1) membership of the National Allotments Society (NSALG), whose aims are to protect the Integrity of the Allotments Sites.
- 2) access to Seed Orders from Kings at favourable rates

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3) our tool recycling initiative, where members donate pre-loved equipment to be passed on to newcomers or other members for a modest donation.

4) Insurance. MT advised that she had managed to get the cost of insurance for the allotments down from last year.

Our finances are in good order, we pay our bills on time (insurance, web and monthly bank account charges etc) and are able to put away some money. There was a large donation from the competition judges, who kindly donated their fees to the Association. These savings provide us with a Fighting Fund, which is essential should the allotments sites come under threat of development. It has happened in the past, in fact, that was the reason for setting up the Association and we know that we must be prepared.

Most of your £5 contribution goes to the NSALG (National Society for Allotment and Leisure Gardeners). Their subscription fee is currently £3.00 per person. They are not planning to increase their membership fees, and neither are we for at least another year.

We continue to try and eliminate cheques from our dealings (80p bank charge per cheque), so please pay anything you owe to the MAA by bank transfer (Sort Code: 403219, Account No: 41460919, Acc. Name: The Marlow Allotments Association) or in cash, either to any Committee Member or suitably disguised in an envelope to M Talbot, 4 Hazel Close, Marlow SL7 3PW.

Regarding the Seed Scheme, we are encouraging members to place orders online via the NSALG/Kings website. Last year, three times as many members used this facility than paper orders in the past, a sign that members prefer this method. To do this, contact Maren who will register you on their website. MT said that the price and quality of Kings seeds was 1<sup>st</sup> class and that they have won awards for their quality.

Paper catalogues and order forms are still available, but to save paper and the cost of distribution, Kings have put the catalogue online, ask Maren for instructions. For those unable to order online, Maren continues to do it for them if they send her a completed order form and cash or pay by transfer to the MAA. At the end of the year MAA receives a discount, which came to £131.18 year, that's 10% up on last year, a welcome result!

Wishing you all a Happy New Gardening Year.

Maren Talbot, Treasurer & Seed Secretary ([mtalbot@outlook.com](mailto:mtalbot@outlook.com))

### Q&A

Bernard Carter - spoke about the shortfall of tenants not joining and what are the figures, as the numbers of plots had increased but the numbers joining seem to have dropped. SM responded that each year she maintains detailed records of all plots, there are more plots on each site than there are tenants, a tenant with more than one plot will rarely pay more than one membership. SM records those that have more than one plot to establish the number of tenants, from this the ratio is calculated of members compared to actual tenants for each site for the purpose of ensuring that by the end of each year we aim to have more than 50% at each site that are members. HH is normally approx. 75% & FP between 55%/60%. We do not want to drop below 50% as this could give a bad signal.

Geoff Lomas – asked why do we pay all this money to NSALG and what do we get for it. MT responded detailing the fact that we get support from them should we need it, as each MAA member is also a member of NSALG, any member can log onto their website to discover what the benefits there are. Plus, the excellent standard of seeds that we can get from Kings seeds, along with the annual discount that MAA receives. MT mentioned that because the Association was set up for the purpose of safeguarding the allotments, it was enshrined in its constitution that membership of the NSALG should be maintained to support this purpose.

SM advised him that the final report of the evening will fully explain why we are part of NSALG.

(HS) - Acceptance of the Financial Report. Proposed by: Sylvia Miller    Seconded by: Bernard Carter

### Elections to the Committee

		<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Officer - Chair:	Huw Stevenson	Ian Brown	Kate Marshall
Officer - Treasurer:	Maren Talbot	Guy Greenhouse	Sarah Greenhouse
Officer - Secretary:	Sylvia Miller	Peter England	Daphne Roberts
Minutes Secretary:	John Stilliard	John Holland	Sylvia Miller
Committee Member:	Denise Bagge	Robert Frost	Bernard Carter
Committee Member:	Pete Cooper	Geraldine Rowe	Maren Talbot
Committee Member:	Fred Tillier	Neil Garside	Mike Hopper
Committee Member:	Richard Harker	Susan Gale	Dee Marshall
Committee Member:	Ian Brown	Huw Stevenson	John Stilliard

There was a request by the Secretary for show of hands (for/against/abstain) for each Committee Member in turn. All Officers and Committee members were accepted with a majority of votes each time.

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**(SM) Amendment to MAA Rules V11** – There have yet again been a few small changes to the Association rules, in section 9 of the document, copies of version 11 have been circulated by email and there are hard copies available this evening for anyone that would like to view this document. Are there any questions regarding this? There were none.

(HS) - The rules changes were agreed. Proposed by: David Howell Seconded by: Shan Stephens

**(SM) MAA - A Brief History – Welcome to our Honoured Guest Speaker** – *I am proud to introduce one of the most loyal members of MAA, who was there at the start of the formation to Fight the Good Fight, as part of the original Committee. A few years later he began his role as Secretary, for almost 30 years he was the back bone of the Association. Please can we have a big hand to welcome the man who can give you his personal account of the history of MAA, our Honoured Guest Speaker, Peter England.*

(PE) - Back in 1982 Marlow Town Council advised tenants of HH that they had arranged for a firm to take over the site to build houses. Tenants were understandably upset, then angry and determined to 'Fight for their Right' to have an allotment.

Led by Bernard Loosley, a retired senior policeman in Marlow Town, tenants gained publicity for their campaign through exposure in the local press, with the aim of raising support from Marlow residents. The local MP was contacted.

In a search for help and advice NSALG was contacted and the legal position clarified. The Association was formed shortly afterwards, with our first AGM in November 1983.

We were able to bring the tenants of Foxes Piece on board, as they were just as likely to face loss of their site from development at any time in the future.

These actions, along with advice and legal support from NSALG, were instrumental in demonstrating how strong and determined the opposition was against this proposal and it was withdrawn.

The threat never disappeared completely. In 1999/2000 an early draft of the Wycombe District Local Plan showed part of the Hanging Hill site as a possible development area. At the time there were quite a few vacant plots on both sites, an argument used to justify the proposal, so we encouraged existing tenants to take on additional plots to ensure there was no justification to close either of the sites. Fortunately, the proposal was withdrawn. The Association had of course objected formally.

We also embarked on a site clearance programme to bring the entire HH site back into cultivation.

Around this time, we offered to organise viewings of available plots to newcomers, liaising with the Council our landlords at all times, thereby ensuring plots are relet as soon possible after vacating. In addition, if the waiting list slows down, we organise publicity with notices around town and the occasional article in the local paper.

Regulations covering planning applications have changed since 1982 which give us more opportunity to oppose any such actions at the early stages. Plus, we work closely with the Council, taking on and assisting with many of their duties as Landlord, as a result of this we would like to believe that we have a good working relationship with them.

We appreciate their support and endeavours to ensure that both allotment sites remain available for Marlow Residents to enjoy, especially in these current times.

The Association remains vigilant to any type of threat to our Allotments Sites.

Lastly, we do have money in the bank which we hold as a fighting fund, should this become necessary.

### **(HS) - Ideas, proposals and questions from members, any other business & raffle**

Richard Bailey mentioned meteorological data taken from a weather station at his property, which demonstrates that temperatures are going up year by year. Which gives climate warning concerns. He emphasised the concern of nutrients leaking from the soil due to heavy rainfall, and said that there is a greater need to mulch the soil with heavy rich compost, or sow green manure over winter and dig in when Spring arrives.

Graham Miles said how upset he was when he received a letter about his plot, but resolved the issue and was advising all tenants not to take it personal if they get a letter – it is just a letter.

John Holland suggested that the £3 we pay to the NSALG is less than the price of a cup of coffee in Marlow and he was happy to forego one cup of coffee per year to keep his allotments safe. This drew a big round of applause from the audience in support of his comment.

The raffle was drawn and prizes selected by the ticket winners in turn.

### **(HS) - Close of meeting – 8.32pm**