

loans were available. They had evidently decided the Noah’s Ark site (owned by Cllr Randall) was suitable for this purpose but under the 1908 Smallholdings and Allotments Act, KUDC were obliged to ensure sufficient land was available for allotments. So the acquisition of an alternative site was an essential piece of the jigsaw.

Events were moving fast. The tenant, Mr Wringrose, held the lease until the following year. On 12th August 1919:

The surveyor reported that as instructed he had seen Mr Wringrose respecting his giving up possession of his field, recently purchased for allotments, on 29th September 1919 next instead of 29th September 1920 in accordance with the terms of his tenancy, and that Mr Wringrose was prepared to give up possession as suggested on payment of £20 compensation.

Resolved that Mr Wringrose be paid £20 upon giving up possession of the land on 29th September 1919

Resolved that Cllrs Randall, Dencer, Hacking and Griffiths be appointed a Sub-Committee to deal with the letting etc of the allotments.

We may assume that, as soon as Mr Wringrose surrendered his land, The Noah’s Ark tenants received notice to quit. They were not happy about this. They may have recalled being offered the land for purchase by Cllr Randall and regretted their failure to do so. At the next council meeting (9th September 1919):

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Noah’s Ark Allotment Association addressed to the Chairman of the Council,* requesting him to call a Town’s Meeting in connection with the taking over by the Council of the Noah’s Ark Allotments for the proposed building scheme.

Resolved that the letter lie on the table as we do not consider the matter of sufficient importance to the majority of ratepayers of Kenilworth for the calling of a Town’s Meeting.

The following month (11th November 1919) the Sub-Committee were busy....

Draft rules with respect to allotment for this district were submitted by the surveyors.

Resolved upon the motion of Cllr Randall, seconded by Cllr Griffiths, that the same be adopted and that they be forwarded to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries for their approval.

And incidentally,

Resolved that the price of swedes and mangolds at the Sewage Farm be fixed at £4 and £3-10-0 per ton respectively on the ground.

After this the Council minutes have nothing more to say about the Odibourne site. In all likelihood the Sub-Committee got on with the mundane task of clearing and letting it in time for the 1920 growing season, perhaps using the services of unemployed ex-soldiers. No doubt most of the disgruntled tenants from Noah’s Ark shrugged their shoulders and moved reluctantly down the lane. There were apparently no tape cutting ceremonies or media photo calls to mark the joyous occasion.

1. ‘A Kenilworth Chronology’ by Harry Sunley (Odibourne Press, 1989)
 2. KUDC Council minutes held at Warwick Records Centre
- * Cllr Randall

We very much appreciate Martyn’s help in researching this information for us and we have a few ideas for some celebrations throughout the year. Check our Dates for the diary list

A very busy end of year

Would be my description of the end of 2018. The extremely hot Summer brought forth some super high yields of apples in the Autumn as well as some of the best aubergines spotted growing outside of a greenhouse. Fat juicy healthy looking figs were in great abundance as well, as was a never ending supply of courgettes. How our crops are changing along with our climate.

Pete and Trudy’s apple press days throughout September...

Were also a huge success and attracted many visitors from outside as well as from our own tenants. Apple fallers were collected by the barrow load, which would have been otherwise wasted, as well as picked (with permission) from numerous plots and we welcomed your support and participation in this new enterprise. Some wonderful flavours of juice were produced, a few donations were received and even the pulp didn’t go to waste as it went to Spencer’s Yard to feed their animals (Pete says the piggies loved them - in fact they were described as being quite ecstatic if you can picture that one)! If you have any waste or surplus vegetables, please place them in the bins by the School Lane gates. The Spencer’s Yard livestock would be most appreciative.

Rent Taking by Committee, last two weekends in September ...

Was a very useful exercise as it allows us to update our records once a year and we value your taking the time to scan our database and give us any new information, ie change of addresses, phone numbers, emails, mobiles and availability for volunteering.

And some statistics...

If you are interested in statistics, here are a few:

This year we paid a subscription to the National Association for a total of 191 members (spread over our three sites). From these, we have 91 volunteers for our Events, 57 for Maintenance, 48 for the Shop Rota, 32 for help with Shop Deliveries, 9 for the Fund-raising plot and 4 for ‘Emergency’ help with the Shop Rota. Please don’t be offended if we haven’t called on you yet. It’s good to know we have you to fall back on and we also do understand that you’re not always available when we actually need you. Perhaps some of you who are on the Maintenance list might like to sidestep and join those helping on our Fund-raising plot or shop delivery days? Let us know please. We do struggle with our shop delivery days as you may not always be available on those particular days. Perhaps some of those who have volunteered for our shop rota and have not been called yet might like to volunteer and train as ‘Emergency shop helpers’- to fill in. It would be a step on the ladder for perhaps a regular spot somewhere along the line in the future.

A visit from Thornes School 1st October ...

This visit had been originally planned for 20th September, but had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Caroline, Paula, Judith, Madeleine and myself took charge of 60 children and we showed a delightful group of ‘year two’ students around the site at Odibourne. Thanks to Caroline who allowed us to use her plot for practical demonstration purposes, to John and Katherine who allowed us to dig up some of their potato crops (much to the screams of delight from the children), to Francis for allowing us to pick a barrow load of his apples for the children to take home, and to all of the other tenants who allowed us to show the children their crops and to sample some of their produce.

Our annual Pumpkin weigh-in (7th Oct at The Engine Inn) ...

Was well attended as usual and we must thank Andy for his continued support both for his sponsorship of the event and the light lunch, which he generously provides for us all on the day. Chris said that Pumpkin sales had been good and there was an enthusiastic turn-out.

And the winners were:

Children’s section:

1st Dexter Webb	29¼ lbs
2nd Oli & Dan Hayes	20¼ lbs
3rd Alex White	14¼ lbs

Adult Section:

1st Nigel Wells	68lbs
2nd Martin Poole	64¼ lbs
3rd Bill Hodgkinson	43¼ lbs

And the ‘End of Year’ BBQ, Sunday 30th Sept ...

To celebrate everything hot, sunny and bountiful was all of the above apart from the temperature... which was a little on the cool side! Never-the-less, all who attended had a fabulous time and enjoyed Pete and Trudy’s catering and we all shared a few bottles of wine, burgers and good company. (Keep an eye on the notice boards for details of next year’s social events – ***even bigger and better plans are afoot and ALL are invited!***)

And now to the serious stuff, our AGM 2018... (much abbreviated)

Which this year was held at a new venue, The Abbey Club, 4 Abbey Hill. A fair bit of the ***Chairman’s Report*** has already been covered in reports above, but he started by commenting on the year’s difficult growing conditions with record rainfall causing the Odibourne site to flood no less than 7 times and the long dry summer which made growing vegetables very difficult. He said Committee had fulfilled all their objectives this year and he thanked Robin for his service to the Committee as well as the Committee in general for their commitment and hard work.

He commented favourably on our Open Days both at Beehive Hill and Odibourne sites (full reports covered in the Autumn newsletter 2018) as well as our attendance at the Lions Show and thanked all who helped to make the sites look their best and to all who donated produce and plants to raise funds. His thanks also extended to the Scouts who under the supervision of Nick Schofield, help us by clearing the river at Odibourne each year.

He made reference to general maintenance being of a high standard over the three sites stating that site gates and posts have been replaced. Hedges have been well maintained and a dangerous sycamore tree had been professionally felled on plot 63 Odibourne at a cost of £400. He said that the willows are regularly pollarded annually to benefit both wildlife and yet to keep shading of plots to a minimum. He commended Pete Hayes for the major path maintenance at Odibourne and David Hoy for the team effort at Beehive Hill. He reported that the shop had secured over £5,000 of sales this year and made a profit of almost £800, but that the benefit of the shop was not just financial as it had provided a focal point for social events now to include our extremely popular apple press days. The volunteers were also thanked for their efforts in keeping the shop open for 4 hours every weekend throughout the season. He confirmed that the Association was planning to provide another smaller shed

to secure the Association’s assets to free up space in the shop. He also announced some good news and that was that after two years in the pipeline, we now had permission from the Environment Agency to construct a smaller bridge over the river nearer to the Manor Road end of Odibourne site. He concluded his report by wishing everyone a successful allotment year.

The Treasurer’s report assured everyone that we were still in a strong financial position with a net excess of income over expenditure of £1415. (For full details of our total assets, please ask the Treasurer and these will be made available). The only queries from the floor were on electricity costs which were accounted for by the fridge/freezer and CCTV monitor. The Treasurer confirmed that once again there would be no rent increase this year

Election of Committee

Committee were prepared to stand again and were re-elected

Motions

Two motions had been proposed, one which was approved –

- That dogs (in addition to current rules) must be restricted to short leads at all times, no more than 2 metres in length.
- The second motion,* that we officially adopt the model Constitution as supplied by the National Association, tailored to our needs. But as this had not been circulated, it was felt that some consultation should be held before agreeing to it. It was decided to circulate a draft of the original model for perusal and suggested amendments could then be proposed for adoption at the next AGM.

Any other business

1. The cutting down of a willow tree was reported and a reminder that we were in a conservation area was issued.
2. A member asked if Committee would consider actively encouraging plot holders to garden organically. A brief discussion ensued, assuring tenants that many pesticides were now being phased out and another tenant added that true organic gardening was a complex multi-level method. Committee agreed to give this some consideration.
3. The difficulty of problems with the gate at Beehive Hill was raised , and Mr Hoy said he would raise the issue once again with WDC

The Meeting was closed at 8.22pm

*Please find enclosed a copy of the model constitution in its original state as supplied by The National Association. Some modifications have already been discussed and a huge amount of this is already incorporated into our current tenancy agreement, by which we have operated over the last 35 years. (For example) The section on not automatically inheriting an allotment upon death... Some years ago we allowed an amnesty to enable tenants to include spouses/partners to register their names on their tenancy agreements so therefore, they would automatically inherit as a joint tenant. It was also agreed that any further allowances on that subject were to be at the discretion of the Committee.

Please take time to read through the basic model and make your comments known to Committee as soon as possible to enable time for discussion. Your observations/suggestions can be put through the letter box at the rear of Lily’s shed. (Plot 51 Odibourne site or emailed). All observations will be discussed as received at each subsequent Committee meeting and the new proposed Constitution will gradually be tailored to our needs and re-formulated for your approval at our 2019 AGM.

And so to our final event of last year...

Our Presentation Evening, Friday 16th November did not disappoint with the usual good turnout, good food and good humour. A vote of thanks was given from Committee to Madeleine and her team for organising our buffets over the last eight years. Our Town Mayor, Councillor Mike Hitchins presented cups and trophies to their appropriate recipients and Sarah Ridgeway from Hinton's Nurseries who is also our sponsor of the 'Heaviest Potato grown in a Bucket' Competition expressed a few kind words on the way our Association was run, and our raffle table groaned as usual from some very generous donations including some from our local traders this year. So we not only ended 2018 on a high note but kicked off the New Year with a rather raucous meeting at the Virgin's and Castle!

Thank-you drinks for our Shop Volunteers held on 16th January ...

... was a noisy affair, and with all in high spirits and full of enthusiasm, it bodes well for another successful season at the Shop. An award for Highest Sales last year went to Ann & Rob Barry, and Sue and Robin Ashby won the Wooden Spoon award for lowest sales, in fact zero apart from a couple of coins found on the floor! Buoyant sales for 2018 sales were reported and a healthy 13% profit margin was achieved

Trudy and Pete cordially invite everyone to come along to the Season's Re-opening of the Shop, and enjoy some hospitality (cake and a cuppa from 11-12, Saturday 16th FEB)

Opening times reminder:

Throughout Feb & Oct Sats & Suns... 11-12

March – September Sats & Sun... 10-12

Don't forget also that you can bring along any surplus tools for us to re-cycle. It not only helps our funds, but helps the environment and helps new-comers to start up at little cost. Winners all round!

You can also keep in touch via Facebook – KATA Kenilworth – or Twitter@ KATA Allotments

Please support our Regional Quarterly Meetings, First Regional meeting of the year Saturday 9th Feb...starts 2pm

Especially this year, as we have offered our hospitality for a meeting of the West Midlands Region to be held at our Senior Citizens Club, Abbey End Car Park, Kenilworth. A speaker will be opening the meeting followed by business after a short break for refreshments. The talk is entitled 'Aliens in the Garden' by John Umpleby. Sounds really interesting.... Please let Lily know if you would like to attend/help lay out teas/chairs etc (numbers attending would be useful for catering)

Dates for your diary, 2019

(our list seems to get longer)!!!

Feb Sat 9th 2pm	Regional meeting of Nat Assoc. held at Sen. Citizens Club, Kenilworth.
Feb Sat 16th 11-12am	Shop re-opens. Cuppa and cake on offer
Mar Sat & Sun 2nd & 3rd	Competition potato and buckets available from the shop
Mar Sat & Sun 9th & 10th	As above
May (beginning of)	Plot inspections by Committee will commence on all three sites

June Sat 8th	Lion's Show in the Abbey Fields (this year is their Golden Anniversary)
June Sun 16th 12-5pm	Open Gardens at Beehive Hill
June Sat 29th	Kenilworth Carnival (with KATA walking group participation). <i>Detail to follow</i>
July Sun 7th 12.30	Potato crop Weigh-in at the Trading Shed.
July w/c Mon 8th...	Judging of plots (day to be confirmed)
July Sat 13th	Fancy dress Party/BBQ – 1919 costume – music – cake! <i>More details to follow</i>
Aug Mon 12th – 18th	National allotment week.
Aug Tues 13th TBC	Judging of Scarecrows
Aug Sun 18th 2-4pm	Open Day held at Odibourne
Aug (end of)	Sunflowers to be measured
Sept Sat 21st/Sun 22nd	Rent collecting at Trading Shed by Committee
Sept Sat 28th/Sun 29th	Rent collecting at Trading shed by Committee (LAST DAY)
Oct Sun 13th 12.30	Pumpkin weigh-in at Engine
Oct Thurs 17th 7.30pm	AGM (Venue to be confirmed)
Oct Sun 27th	Shop closes for the season
Oct Sun 27th	Last day for seed orders (Order form to be handed in to Chris at 69 Spring Lane)
Nov Fri 15th 7pm for 7.30	Presentation evening at The Old Copper House Club

Some interesting and complimentary News for KATA.....

This may be a long way off in the pipeline, but KATA has been asked by Town Council to manage the new Allotment land, which will be made available when our new housing development takes place in Kenilworth.

Manure deliveries...

Seem to have dried up, so if anyone has any contacts out there, please let Lily know

The Toilet...

Will be closed until the water supply is turned back on in the Spring

Potato deliveries...

Thank-you Chris for personally delivering these to us

Note of caution...

Please reduce your speed on our tracks when driving a car down there. Cyclists please also note that your approach is silent, so care must be taken – a tenant could step out from behind a shed and right into your path

£5 in Lily's Letter box...

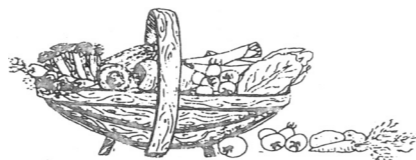
Much appreciated, and thank you, but our Treasurer needs to know who it's from and more importantly what it is for so he can balance his columns!!! If possible, please put any payments in a little envelope with a few details!

Please keep an eye on our notice boards for more information on our CENTENARY EVENTS. These will follow in due course or you can contact Trudy direct if you would like to help or have any more ideas.

And finally....

Compliments to our chickens at the Spring Lane site. What a delight it is to listen to them with their gentle soothing clucking sound. Such a pleasure to hear them

Have a great Gardening Season everyone.



KENILWORTH ALLOTMENT TENANTS ASSOCIATION K.A.T.A.

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019



A very happy if not slightly belated happy new year to you all from KATA Committee, **and what an exciting year we have to look forward to, as 100 years ago this year, was the year that our seven acre piece of land, which we know as 'The Odibourne site' was acquired for use as Allotments.**

A couple of years ago, and being very aware of this fact, we asked one of our Committee members to do some research for us and with his kind permission, he has allowed us to publish his findings, which we think you will find fascinating and in some places quite amusing. I have passed a copy of it on to Town Council, as it is also indicative of how our relationship with them has thankfully improved somewhat!

But firstly, we would like to say a very big 'thankyou' to Robin Ashby, who served on our Committee since 2013 and stood down at our 2018 AGM. Robin's expertise in engineering was a great asset to us when together with Dennis Jones, he completely re-built the crumbling and dangerous steps at 'The Common' entrance to the Odibourne site. He also re-designed the entrance, together with a team at 'the Engine' end of the site. He kept the hedge well-trimmed by the car park entrance (all done by hand too), and ran the shop for a couple of years with his wife Sue. Alongside all of this he then stepped in to help out last year when he completed the pre-judging for us (this time under the supervision of Sue) prior to our main judging in July! Robin, you were a truly wonderful and hardworking member of our team and together with your wicked sense of humour, you will be missed by us all! We hope that you and Sue will still help us with the pre-judging though... (Pretty please)?

And so now we are pleased to welcome a new member to our Committee, Ann Barry from plot 70b Odibourne site, Ann is an eminently qualified PA and she will assist Committee initially by looking after our Minute taking. She is already a valued member on the shop rota and helps out willingly with our events. Welcome to the team Ann.

(Lily Brownjohn, Allotment Secretary)

Odibourne Centenary

Executive summary by Martyn Partridge

We can celebrate our centenary either on 29th September 2019 (commemorating the date when Kenilworth Urban District Council took possession of the site) or the Spring of 2020 (commemorating the start of the first growing season) or maybe Summer/Autumn 2020 (commemorating the first harvest).

The Full Story

The previous Noah's Ark allotments took their name from a distinctive house with a high pitched roof that stood next to the present fish and chip shop in School Lane. The plots were opposite, on the Hill where the Hyde Road estate now stands. In 1917 Cllr Charles Randall bought the allotment site 'to keep it out of the hands of jerry builders' apparently 'hoping that the allotment tenants would buy it off him. (1)

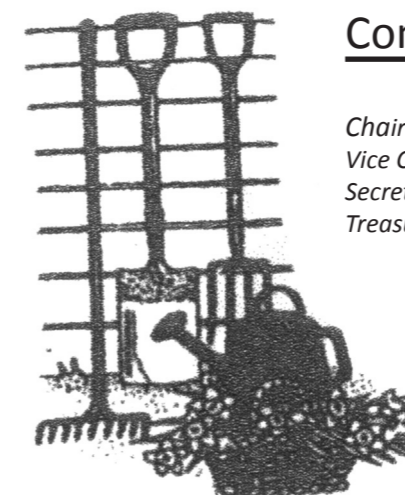
Perhaps they declined his offer. By 1919 the war was over and councillors were wrestling with the twin problems of poor housing and high unemployment. Meanwhile the estate of the late William Thomas Pears (which included our Odibourne site) came up for auction. According to the council minutes (17 July 1919):

Mr Randall was requested to purchase on behalf of the council, at the sale by auction of the estate of the late Mr Pears, the meadows adjoining Washbrook Bridge in the occupation of Mr Wringrose and the small gardens adjoining, fronting Lower Ladyes Hills, if the same was procurable for a sum not exceeding £900

He apparently succeeded. Two weeks later, on July 29th 1919, at a special meeting of the council:

Resolved upon the motion of Cllr Hocking seconded by Cllr Nixon that the Clerk apply to the Ministry of Health for sanction to the borrowing of a sum of £1000 for the purchase and laying out of land adjoining Washbrook Bridge for the purpose of allotments. (2)

The council planned to build 'Homes fit for heroes' as quickly as possible, for which substantial government



Committee members

			Plot / Site
Chairman	Chris Coton	513268	3a Spring Lane
Vice Chairman	Pete Hayes	851382	15b Odibourne
Secretary	Lily Brownjohn	855291	51 Odibourne
Treasurer	Philip Jordan	733407	37a Odibourne
	Ann Barry	857240	70b Odibourne
	Paula Hallam	856480	44 Odibourne
	Dave Harwood	07785 991291	
	Trudy Hayes	851382	15b Odibourne
	David Hoy	851396	20 Beehive Hill
	Peter Jones	853930	18b Odibourne
	Catherine Nyman	07980 552963	38 Odibourne

Committee may also be contacted through the Trading Shed email address katatradingshed@yahoo.com