

DITTON ALLOTMENT TENANTS SOCIETY
AGM – 31st MARCH 2010
DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Attendance : Mike and Carol Hawksworth, Keith and Liz Holloway, David and Anne Osbaldstone, Norma and Mark Webb, Laurie Caine, Alan and Margaret Piper, Ted and Ann Brown, Brenda Smith, Jim Preskett, Arthur Dearden, Clive and Jane Thwaites, David Pilcher, Jan McCormack, Maurice and Guisel Garrett, Harry and Rose Hall, Mike Evans, John Elliot

Agenda	Apologies for absence
1.	Mike welcomed everyone apologies were received from Terry and Midge Smith, Andy Peel, Lyn Preskett and Len Mace (Len sends his best wishes to everyone)
2.	Minutes from last AGM Everyone had been given a copy of last year's AGM notes, these were taken as read and approval sought. All in agreement
3.	Chairman's report and correspondence Mike said that there was not much to report but gave a brief recap of the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Day plant sale was good for DATS we raised £210 Mike thanked everyone for their effort and plant contributions. (There is not going to be a fair this year) • BBQ was very well attended. Mike thanked Liz and Keith for a very good effort both on the day, before and after to ensure it was such a good event. • Gazebo is an asset for the Society. It is available for any member to use just contact Mike, there is no charge for its use but a small donation to DATS would be welcomed • Ditton Summer Show Ted was supreme winner, Mark and Clive who also won prizes. Perhaps this year a few more DATS members would like to have a go. • Robin Webb Challenge Cup – Biggest onion Competition Clive was the winner with an onion weighing in at 535 grams, Denis was second at 420 grams Ted's onion was 225 grams.● • Mike thanked Keith for organising the seed order and for getting the potatoes. Keith apologised for the rush but Herne Bay Allotment Society needed to place their order. If we are able to keep to 3 varieties it is easier. A 25 kilogram sack is £13 (Kings is £25). The varieties are Pentland Javelin – 1st early/Charlotte – 2nd early/ Desire – main crop. Keith will contact members late August/early September for order. • Mike thanked Liz and Keith for distributing allotment magazine (4 times a year), they were happy to continue • Pre Christmas get together venue was very good as we can take our drinks as well as food • After Christmas Dinner at Duke of Wellington again very good although it was felt that the tables were very close together making it feel tight.
4.	Treasurer's report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith circulated a copy of the accounts to all those present. • Keith reported a successful year due to the generosity regarding raffles - we had made £200. The Allotment Society fees were increased making a difference of £20 this was covered by our seed order discount. • There was more income from the BBQ than expenditure • Room Hire fees are up. We have already booked the East Malling Parish room for our Christmas venue and have paid the holding deposit of £25. • Our balance sheet shows a closing balance of £412.50 which includes £210 for toilet facilities. • We had a good year, we purchased the gazebo and have already paid for Xmas venue and raffle money is always beneficial. • Our public liability covers all DATS members and we have £2 million cover. • Minutes were approved and carried.
5.	Election of Committee members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no nominations for the annual posts therefore the existing Committee members were asked if they were prepared to stand for re-election

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that all Committee members be nominated together and were all unanimously carried. • Entertainments : Liz Holloway is willing to continue assisted by Ted Brown • Raffle : Ted and Ann Brown
6.	<p>Social events for the year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBQ it was decided due to uncertainty of the weather it was difficult to buy food in advance therefore in fairness to Liz and Keith perhaps a different format could be tried this year. Everyone agreed that a small committee be formed to coordinate the event. We would each bring our own food/drinks/plates etc. perhaps an extra side dish for everyone to share. 3 BBQs would be put up together with the gazebo. • Volunteers were needed for the committee – Laurie/Alan and Maggie/Clive and Jane all agreed. It was decided that 2 dates be fixed and nearer the time and according to weather forecasts one date agreed on, the proposed dates are Wednesday 21st July and Wednesday 28th July • Autumn Seed Meeting : Wednesday 20th October 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm Acorn Room, Ditton Community Centre • Christmas get together : Tuesday 14th December 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm East Malling and Larkfield Parish Office, Church Farm, New Hythe Lane (booking has been confirmed) Format to be decided at October meeting • It was suggested that perhaps a group would like to go to a Quiz evening at a local pub (Quarrymans was suggested) It was agreed a good idea and Liz is going to make enquiries.
7.	<p>Robin Webb Challenge Trophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clive won the 2009 Challenge Trophy so he has suggested the 2010 Challenge will be the largest marrow (by weight). The closing date for weighing of marrows is 30th September. Your marrow can be weighed anytime up to this date just contact Clive.
8.	<p>Web-site – http://www.dats.btik.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike thanked Maurice for building the site but also asked for contributions to fill the site if you have any photographs or recipes that can be added please contact Mike or Maurice. • Since the site has been online Mike has been approached by a seed company offering a 10% discount to DATS members please quote code AD828 when ordering, their website is www.vegseeds.net The seeds are .99p per packet although quantities do vary there is no postage. • There are also links to other associations and general sites of interest. • DATS calendar dates will be on the website notice board as will minutes of our meetings.
9.	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path As you will all have seen a plastic mesh has been put on the central path. Care needs to be taken until the grass has grown through. Mike has written to the Parish Council pointing out the dip in the middle and asking for it to be levelled. No response yet. • Water monitoring new meter (update) 2 water meters have been installed to check usage of our water. Mike has written to the Parish Council asking for details of previous years usage and for bowling green usage (it transpires that they already are metered) Depending on the results of his questions and our usage our fees to the Parish Council may be are increased. Mike will keep us informed. • Composting Toilet (working party) Mike gave us an update and discussed ideas for the frame, outer covering (willow fencing) and possibly clear corrugated plastic for the roof, also he said that John Elliot had located some timber that could be used for the frame. As noted £210 had been set aside for such expenditure. This is still a work in progress and will be discussed again. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan said that he had approached the Parish Council as a private individual regarding the composting toilet as he was concerned that if it went ahead without permission from the relevant Councils we could be made to take it down. • Both Mike and Keith said that they had no intention of going ahead without permission being granted likewise if any cost looked to be above £210 already set aside further discussion with DATS members would definitely take place.
	Meeting closed at 9.35 pm