**Chair’s Report AGM 22.10.24**

**“A Year of Calm”**

We started the year with a full Management Committee including two co-opted willing volunteers … and then one by one we had a reality check.

Emma, our Chair, has struggled all year to balance work, family, health issues and hobbies along with Allotment responsibilities. As a result, Emma has given up her plot and resigned as Chair. I would like to record my personal vote of thanks for her help and support during her time as Site Officer and the Chair. Sarah has also found it really challenge to balance her similar workload and as a consequence has not been able to offer as much to her role as she would have liked. Sharon & Jackie have also struggled to find the time to execute their duties and have both stepped down, Sharon no longer has a plot, Jacqui is relocating to a smaller, more manageable plot. Hayley has been supportive in terms of secretarial duties, the day to running has been carried out by Simon.

We are in good shape and have run at 100% occupancy for the entire year, we do have one vacant plot currently.

The Allotment Society have signed a new 5 year lease with the Town Council and are now operating on a cost neutral basis. We now pay £2,590 less 20% for site management fees to the Town Council rather than retaining the fixed £500 which was the previous model. We incurred and passed on a 40% increase this year to cover costs, the increase for future years is based on the Retail Price Index which is currently less than 3%. As always, I would like to thanks Dave Paisey for keeping the communal areas in good shape and for being such a terrific support to the Allotment Society and to me personally.

The accounts have been verified and signed off by our independent auditor, Mike Carne. The balance for year ending September 24 is a surplus of £1800.04 which is £210.25 lower than our opening balance. The deficit is largely down to our membership of the Allotment Society plus the installation of two new noticeboards. A huge thank you to Alison & Chris for carrying out a first-class job for us on a completely voluntary basis. Also thanks go to Mike for supporting us in an audit capacity.

Going forward we need to consider;

* Standards on site
* Continued membership of the Allotment Society
* Website & Facebook activity
* Compost toilet
* Social activity

So, in summary the Allotment Society continues to be in good shape, the reality is that we are a voluntary organisation and will only survive with the continued support of volunteers to maintain and improve our standards. Above all we need all plot holders to take responsibility and maintain their plots and borders to the minimum standards, then the management is much less onerous.

Simon Green

Acting Chair, Treasurer.

October 24