

CAGA Committee Report



Presented to the membership at the AGM in March 2018.

1 - Summary

It has been a productive year for growers on our site but this year has unfortunately been dominated by the tragic murder of our Secretary Lea Hulselmans (Adri-Soejoko) in February 2017. As I write, the trial of Rahim Mohammadi is still underway and I am aware that many of our members have been called to give testimony in court. This can be daunting and difficult but I'm sure that Lea's family and friends are very grateful for everyone's support and time.

These events understandably made some members feel uncomfortable and unsafe on site and that meant that several members decided to move on to other sites or retire. As a result new members have joined us and we are very pleased to welcome them to our site where we hope they will be able to enjoy a positive atmosphere and tackle some tricky and overgrown plots with enthusiasm and energy. We still have a long waiting list for plots and it would appear that new arrivals to Colindale are keen to find a place to grow and harvest fruits and vegetables.

In order to make members feel safer on site and to monitor unauthorised people accessing the site the committee was approached by several members requesting CCTV. After careful consideration we decided that this was a worthwhile investment into the safety of all members and an appropriate use of members' fees. However, it has proved extremely difficult to get a broadband connection thus far. We currently have an order with BT to provide a line to the Trading Hut which will allow us to stream the CCTV but we are yet to be connected. It was decided to raise fees this year in order to fund this investment and provide a funding pot in preparation for future safety and structural projects.

Our website remains an important place for members to access information about events, news and reporting issues so please visit www.colindaleallotments.com if you haven't yet done so. You can also contact the current committee on admin@colindaleallotments.com and we will be able to discuss any concerns or thoughts you have at the next committee meeting.

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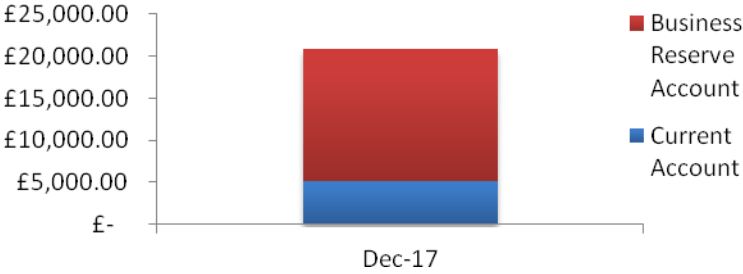


In memory of Lea Hulselmans (Adri-Soejoko) 1938-2018. An enthusiastic horticulturalist, a tireless servant to Colindale Allotments, and a loved mother and grandmother who is greatly missed.

2 - Finances

CAGA's financial reporting year runs from January to December. The financial situation is currently healthy and there has been a small increase in funds available for projects and maintenance this financial year.

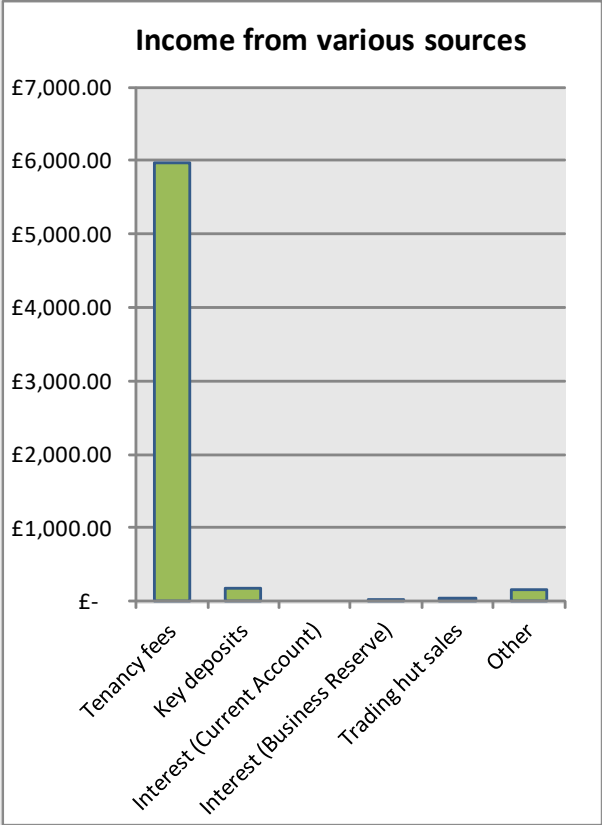
Due to the events of February 2017 the details of the accounts for the start of 2017 are still in the hands of the police and the committee does not have access to details of income/expenditure from this period but the Treasurer's report does cover everything from March to December. See the details below.



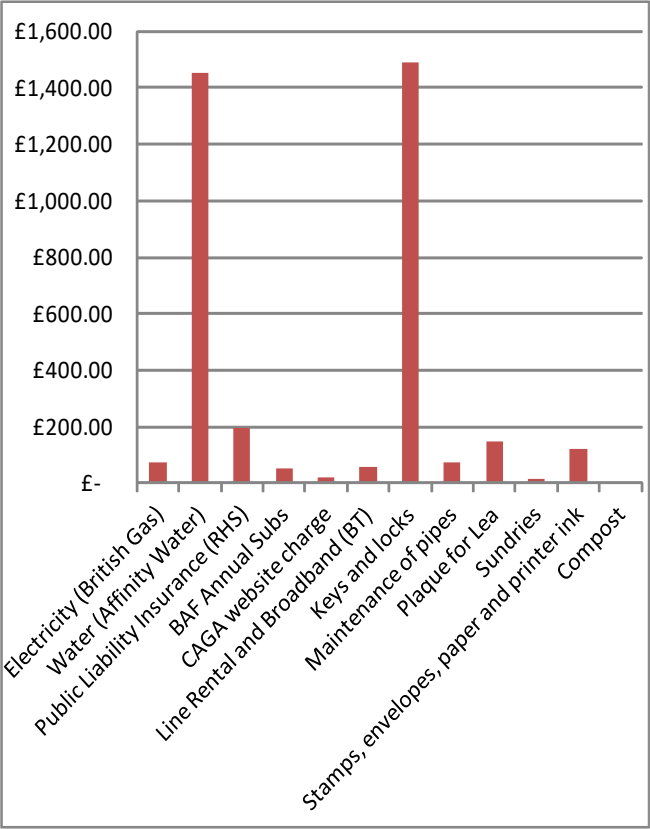
The main source of income this year has been membership fees which accounts for £5966 in 2017. The main causes of expenditure have been water bills (only one of which is reflected here because the cheque didn't clear until Jan 18) - £1454 and the replacement of the troublesome main gate lock and associated keys - £1490.

A healthy financial situation allows us to fund safety improvements.

Income



Expenses



Full Treasurer's report compiled by Adrian Clargo. This has been audited by Jane Healy (Independent Auditor).

2 Committee Elections

We are all members of the Colindale Allotment and Gardens association. In order for CAGA to function it has to follow some rules which include having a committee of between 3 and 10 members who are elected from the membership to:

1. Organise collection of membership fees
2. Administer memberships
3. Maintain communal paths and areas
4. Promote the constitutional aims of growing and horticulture
5. Ensure a safe environment for members.

The committee meets at least every two months, but often aims to be on site and available to members on a more regular basis. The roles include Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Lettings, Trading Hut and Maintenance but committee members can also take responsibility for delivering projects or other roles. The roles are all completely voluntary and there is no payment for services. However, it has been suggested that some of the roles, that require more time and work, be recognised with a one off annual honoraria of £100 or £50 as a gesture of thanks.

The membership needs to elect members each year at the AGM and the committee can then invite two more members during the year to support their activities.

If you would like to know more about how the committee works or the responsibilities of specific roles then please feel free to speak to one of the current committee members. If you feel that you can volunteer some of your time and skills to support the CAGA membership then consider joining the committee and helping to make decisions that will support the whole membership.

4 Future projects

1. Installation of CCTV

Many members approached the committee to ask how if it would be possible to have CCTV on site and make sure that unauthorised individuals were not on site using copied and unreturned keys. The local police also recommended that this would be a positive step in making the site more secure and reassure members and neighbours. We have already upgraded the lock on the main gate and issued all current members with new keys. The next step is to install CCTV on site. If we store the images on site then it would be possible for people to break into the Trading Hut and delete the recordings. It is therefore more prudent to stream the CCTV feed and for that we need a landline and a broadband feed. We have tried signing up with Origin Broadband and Talktalk but they were not able to deliver the broadband feed. We now have a contract with BT but have been waiting since November 2017 for them to install so this remains an ongoing project. Once the landline is installed then we will need to source and fit the CCTV equipment.

2. Trading hut stocking and sales

We would like to stock the Trading hut with supplies for gardeners and members. This would mean sourcing, purchasing, and selling supplies such as compost, fertilizer, seeds and plants to members.

3. Events

Creating opportunities for socialising and meeting other members could happen in a variety of ways. Getting to know each other on site can create positive mental health benefits associated with socialisation and a sense of community.

The current committee

Chair/Secretary/Treasurer

Adrian Clargo

Ex-chair

Clive Critchley

Maintenance

Bambos Charalambous

Additional members

Mario Costa

All current committee members are willing to be re-elected and volunteer once again. If you would like to join them then email your name and reasons why you would like to join to admin@colindaleallotments.com by Sunday 4th March 2018.

Members Survey - Spring 2018

As a member of CAGA you have the opportunity to have your say. What has gone well for you this year and what could be improved?

Please complete this survey and return it via post to CAGA, 81 Sheaveshill Avenue, Colindale, NW9 6RZ or complete the survey online by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3MBGPC7>

Name: _____

Plot Number: _____

1. How would you rate your overall enjoyment of our site?

lowest 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **highest**

2. What grew successfully for you last year? _____

3. Do you feel safe when on site? yes no

4. What issues you are concerned about? _____

5. Do you support the idea of CCTV on our site? yes no

6. What do you think is the most important future project? _____

7. How much time do you think you could volunteer to support the community? _____

8. Do you have any special skills or experience that you could offer? _____

9. What would make our site more satisfying for you? _____

10. Are you happy to receive all communications via email and the CAGA website? yes no

11. Would you like to volunteer to be part of the committee in 2018? yes no

Many thanks!