

Presidents Report 2006

First ,I'd like to thank the committee for all their support and hard work over the past 12 months. So Gilbert, Judy, Jenny, Andrew, Gordon, Gail, Eric, Ian, Karen, Liz and Peter [in absentia] - thank you - you are a talented group and your achievements are impressive!

The committee met 4 times this year, in Kelty [Fife] in September, In Southside [Edinburgh] in November, in Dundee in February and in Dalmuir [Clydebank] in April. This enables the committee to visit different allotment sites and varies our travelling time.

Three on going developments have dominated this year - the new website, planning policy and the Society of Friends.

We have an excellent webmaster in Barbara de la Rue. She's creating a user-friendly website that I think everyone can manage. Information will be readily available to anyone interested in allotments. Hopefully, more people will become more aware of allotments as a result.

Government is also becoming more aware of allotments. As a result of "Peoples Gardens in Scotland" the Executive is recognising the importance of allotments over all. SAGS has also had an input into "Allotments in Scotland, guidance notes for Councils". Both documents move allotments up the political agenda - this has to be good news for allotments!

Finally, with the winding-up of the SASU scheme, our association with the Society of Friends is ending. Their final grant of £10,000 is ring-fenced, and in accordance with their wishes, we plan to use it for projects which will support the 'Preservation, Promotion and Protection' of allotments in Scotland. The first project will be an audit of allotments in Scotland. Our aim is to identify sites, to make contact and to establish how we can offer assistance. Funding will be in partnership with the Mushroom Trust and also by contributions in kind from SAGS.

In future, the website will include minutes of committee meetings. We hope that this will make members feel more involved with our work, and able to join in with comments and suggestions via our notice board.

Mandy Fooks
President SAGS