



Dave Chapman has had an Allotment for 15 years. Here he is weeding his beans.

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Bob and Richard

We miss you

Village Show

15 July, Can you help?

THS Show

If you grow it, Show it

It is Dis

Water

Please ensure that we do not waste water. Taps need to be turned off carefully. Washers need replacing promptly. **Malcolm Kessel** (AB3a) and **Mark Digby** (PB9b) are kindly keeping an eye out for water and tap problems on site. Malcolm is i/c the supply from Armour Hill. Mark is i/c the Polsted Rd supply. Please report any leaks or problems to them; contact details are on noticeboards.

Making best use of water is quite tricky, but if you look round our site you can see how successful people have been in planning ahead.

Ideas that work are:

- Mulch to prevent water loss. (Some people are using grass cuttings.)
- Water directly where it is needed.
- Grow drought tolerant plants. For example, French beans rather than runner beans.
- Improve the water-retention capacity of the soil. (Add lots of compost.)
- Make sure that the plants are grown in gulleys so no water runs away.

Watering with a can is hard work. During the hose-pipe ban you *may use a hose to fill a tank*, but you must not use a hose to water plants directly.

Do you want to siphon water from baths or butts? Do you enjoy the flavour of soap or algae? If not, look at www.droughtbuster.co.uk they have a handy little siphon device for £19.99

Site security

Remember to keep the main vehicle gates locked. The new gate at Armour Hill will be installed fairly soon. The locks on both gates will work with the same key. You can get a key in exchange for a returnable deposit of £8.00 from Mr Jenks.

Police advise us to keep our property (particularly anything that might be used to cause damage) safely locked away out of sight. Also please do not use glass for greenhouses.

Please drive really slowly (**5 mph**) to prevent damage to tracks, plots and edges. Take great care in Polsted road where speed restrictions also apply.

Plot Holders Committee 2005/2006

Chair	David Griffiths	PB10	9421141			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169			
Treasure	Ken Phillips	AB14				
Committee	William Macphee	AA20	John Kirton	PA3	Gill Mills	PC9
	Richard Buckingham	AB11	John Carpenter	AA19	Kim Pierpoint	AB18



Committee Notes

The waiting list is now seventeen families. We expect most on the list to get plots by the winter 2007. If you know anyone who wants a plot, tell them to contact Jenny to get their name down. Lots of our applicants are making contact through the website.

If you have decided you can't manage all your plot please tell Oliver or Jenny. We could rent out your other half. If the problem is short term perhaps covering it for a short time would help.

Stones on paths. Please don't throw stones on the main paths which Peter mows for us. They don't do the mower any good at all.

Your committee could do with some help. We meet only about four times a year, but could do with some fresh blood and new ideas. Anyone is welcome to come along and find out what is involved. Just tell any member of the committee.

A big thank you to John Kirton and Dave Griffiths who repaired our notice board and post after the attention of vandals.

Seasonal Reminders

What to do in the summer, apart from going on holiday? As well as keeping on top of hoeing and weeding, picking, watering, protecting crops from pests and diseases, picking off caterpillars, harvesting slugs, there is still some sowing you can do. Crops like carrots and French beans can be sown into July. Some salad crops can be sown until September and there are lots of late sown veg, like oriental greens to remember before we think about autumn onion sets.

Keep on Gardening

Many keen gardeners find they have difficulty as years progress. Gardening is a healthy and enjoyable hobby. Your committee want to find ways of helping people keep on gardening as long as possible. Please let us know if you are thinking of stopping. We want to find out what could be done to help. RBC now lets out plots that are only 75 sq metres (i.e. quarter size) Would you be interested in a small patch? What about a small plot for people with bending or other mobility problems?

Your committee are working on two projects that could do with some extra help. Ideas, physical work and good contacts regarding materials are needed. The projects are:

Improve site security by installing high fencing near the recreation ground. The Trustees have kindly donated £65 towards the cost of fencing panels. The panels will need erecting when they arrive. We haven't quite decided how to do it!

Convert a plot for use by people with mobility or back problems. This will probably involve four foot wide raised beds, and wide level smooth paths. We hope to get this done by next spring, and hope to get a grant to cover costs.

Can you help? Please contact any member of the committee if you can help. These worthwhile projects will benefit everyone on site, and would be best done by a strong team.

Tenancy reminders

Paths. Every plot-holder is required to maintain a path all round their plot. It is a chore, but it must be done. Please check your paths out and make sure *you* are doing what is required.

Weeds. Please make sure that weeds are controlled. Our tenancy agreement is clear about avoiding nuisance to other plot-holders. Weed seeds blowing from nearby plots can be a real nuisance at this time of year.



Friends Lost

It was a sad Spring. We lost two members who did lots for the Society and had many friends. Bob Marshall and Richard Scott both died young.



Bob was the founding Chair of the Society. He saw us through the time when 20 plot-holders were given notice to quit the Kentwood Hill site. Bob kept our plumbing in good nick and led the programme to ensure everyone is within three plots of a tap. He was always good company, and involved in all our work parties.



Richard was our treasurer, taking over from Bill Fryer, in 1999 when the funds stood at £214.31. They are now about £8,000. Our auditor always congratulated Richard on having everything in order. Many remember other talents as well: for example Richard's skill in manhandling telephone poles was invaluable when we dismantled and later re-erected a massive old poly-tunnel.



Tilehurst Village Show

On Saturday 15th July we will sell plants and surplus produce. Please help our stall reach the target of £100. You can drop off any donations at the stall on the Victoria Recreation Ground any time from 10.00am.

Volunteers to help on the stall are very welcome. Tell Jenny if you can help for an hour or so. Many hands make light work.

Tilehurst Horticultural Society

August. Entry forms will soon be available from the sheds in Gratwicke Rd and Oaktree Rd.

