

Ken Phillips kindly shouldered the Treasurers responsibilities after Richard's untimely death.

*In this news letter*

**Chairman's Report  
Notice of AGM**

7.30pm Thursday 22 Sept  
Tilehurst Village Hall  
Victoria Road

- Summary of accounts**
- Keep on Gardening**
- Committee Notes**
- Our Police Officers**



This and the pictures on page 4 were taken on the allotments in late August.

# It is Dis

**Chairman's report**

Once again, our AGM is fast approaching. Make a note, Thursday 28 September. We need your views on site security and gardening when you cannot manage a full plot. Perhaps you have other issues. Please come along and give the committee your opinions. Even better, think about joining the committee. All committee posts are up for election, including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

**E**vents of the past year include the sad deaths of two committee members. As chairman, I miss the support of both Bob and Richard. I am very grateful to Ken Phillips who has stepped up to act as Treasurer. I hope that the AGM will endorse him as treasurer for the next year.

**T**his year we have given up the Reading Farmer's market. Since we started in April 2000 we have raised just under £8140 net. Very well done to Jenny and her team of helpers, and

thank you to everyone who contributed surplus produce.

**T**ilehurst Show has now taken over as the main contributor to our funds. In July, this brought in £175. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a success.

**W**e have continued to suffer from annoying vandalism. I can only urge you to report any theft or damage to the police. The police presence is driven by reports. If there are no reports, there is no problem. The more people who report incidents, the bigger the problem and the bigger the problem, the more likely we are to see a bobby.

**I** look forward to seeing you all at the the AGM.

**Any Questions?**

**Q**uestions for the Trustees to answer at the AGM must be handed in before the meeting. Please give them to Jenny to pass on, or send directly to Oliver Jenks.

**Outgoing Plot Holders Committee 2005/2006**

Note: All the committee positions are up for election every year. We need nominations, there will be a chance to step forward during the interval

Chair	David Griffiths	PB10	9421141		
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169		
Treasurer	Ken Phillips	AB14			
Committee	William Macphee	AA20		Gill Mills	PC9
	John Kirton	PA3		Richard	
	Kim Pierpoint	AB18a		Buckingham	AB11

## AGM

All plot-holders (both sites) and all on the waiting list are very welcome at our AGM. Please come, talk about how things are going and steer future plans. We sit in a circle; everyone has a chance to speak. There is a raffle and an interval with refreshments; you can pay your rent, get a gate-key, and chat with friends.

This year there is a new topic as well as the old faithfuls, (petty theft, bonfires, locking gates). Our plans for adapting plot PB4 so less agile gardeners can keep on gardening will be up for discussion and decision. Before we apply for grants we want to be sure everyone's ideas have been considered. We are keen to get the plans right. Please have your say. If all goes well we will have the plot ready next spring.

## Join The Committee?

Currently your committee meet about once every two months or so. The whole committee stands down at the AGM; there is plenty of opportunity for new blood. With a range of jobs we need many different talents and areas of expertise. Please help your society stay healthy. It has come a long way since it was formed in July 1999, but we still need to keep moving forward.

## Paying Your Rent

The Charity sent this Dig It along with your rent letter. It says the rent due now is £30 a year for a full plot (reductions available). The rent is money well spent, (think of the food and fun you get). You can pay in three ways:

- by post
- in person at the AGM
- on the main allotment site in the morning of Saturday 30th Sept (check your rent letter for the time when Oliver will be there!)

Please pay promptly, or let Oliver know if you will be stopping. Don't leave him guessing. We want all plots let quickly so weeds don't take over.

If you are finding the work a bit much you could drop down to half a plot. Many people find it is a good way of keeping on a hobby that is becoming burdensome.

This news letter was prepared by the plot holders committee.  
Web site: [www.reading-city.net/tilehurstallotments/](http://www.reading-city.net/tilehurstallotments/)

## TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 28 September 2006 7.30-9.00pm

Tilehurst Village Hall, Victoria Road

### Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introduction** David Griffiths
2. **Acceptance of Minutes of AGM (22 Sept 2005)**
3. **Report from the Chair** David Griffiths
4. **Treasurers Report** Ken Phillips Discussion about financial issues and accounts for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
5. **Reports from the Charity** Oliver Jenks

**Interval** (Tea and a chance to chat or pay your rent)

6. **Discussion** of Site Issues and priorities for the next year, including the keep on gardening project and site security.
7. **Elections** for Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and up to 9 members of the executive committee. Appointment of auditor.
8. **Raffle**

**Close of Meeting**

## Welcome Visitors

The 79<sup>th</sup> Beaver Colony visited Andy's plot in July to see how an allotment was run. They had a great time and learnt a lot about vegetable growing.



Many thanks to Swan, the Beaver Leader, for the picture.

## TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006

Income		Expenditure	
Poor's Trust	£60.00	Site Improvements	£30.00
Misc. sales	£0.00	Site Maintainance	£246.00
Farmers' Market	£1451.35	Insurance	£65.33
Raffles	£45.00	Admin AGM	£26.81
Grants	£18.75	Dig It copying	£47.61
Gifts	£0.00	Room Hire	£18.00
Bank Interest	£299.41	Market Expenses	£225.96
		TVFM Annual m'ship	£31.25
		Folder updates	£20.72
		Miscellaneous	£9.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,874.51</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£721.63</b>
Balance b/f 30 Jun 2005	£11,600.20		£4,772.47
Net Income/Expenditure	<b>£7,980.61</b>		
	30 Jun 2006		

### Balance as at 30 June 2006 is made up as follows

Bank accounts	£359.06
Petty cash	£137.87
Cheques received to be presented	£0.00
Investments	£7,501.00
Prepaid expenses	£34.50
Accrued Income	£125.18
Accrued expenses	£(112.00)
TPLT grant to be spent	£(65.00)
Accounts payable	£0.00
<b>Total 30 Jun 2006</b>	<b><u>£7,980.61</u></b>

**Julia Cottee Auditor.**

Editor David Griffiths 9421141

All contributions and letters welcome  
email: [TilehurstAllotments@hotmail.com](mailto:TilehurstAllotments@hotmail.com)

## Keep on gardening

It amuses my children and distresses me. The fact is, I can't do what I did 30 years ago. So what do we do when we can't manage a full plot, or a half plot? Give up? No!

Your committee would like to adapt a plot (PB4) to be particularly suited to people with difficulty gardening.

**a) What would help?** We want to cater for *your* future needs. If you think you may have to give up soonish, could an accessible plot help you keep on gardening longer? Are your knees playing up, is bending an issue? Would raised beds help you, how high should they be (chair or table height?) Might it be tricky changing to growing things in small meal-sized quantities, after growing on a 10-rod plot? Would advice on gardening on a smaller scale be useful? *Please let us know what you think.*

**b) Collecting ideas.** We have been picking lots of brains. For example, a party of plot-holders went to THRIVE. (See [www.thrive.org.uk](http://www.thrive.org.uk)) They found lots of interest. The staff showed us round, answered questions and were very generous with their time.

**c) Getting it done.** We need external grants (to pay for contractors and materials) *and* volunteers (to do less technical work).

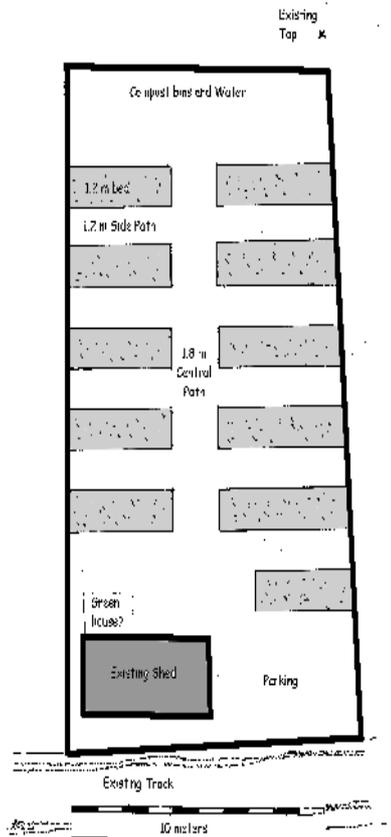
**d) What you can do?** We expect volunteers will start by preparing the site later this year. Please say if you could help. Explain what would suit you best, weekday or weekend work parties, or would you prefer just to do a task in your own time? Many hands will make light work. You can do as much or as little as you want.



Jenny at Thrive



Kim talks to the plot-holders who visited Thive.



Above: One possible layout



Individual plots at Thrive



## Committee notes

Our accounts for the year ending 30 June 2006 have been audited. Even though we only sold at the Farmers market for six months before stopping in December the situation looks healthy. We earned nearly £300 interest on our savings. The position is better than it looks since our other big earner (Tilehurst Show) does not show in these accounts as this year it happened in mid July because of the World Cup.

**Since last September, we**

**W**atched the Society cash very carefully now our income is much smaller.

**P**roduced 4 editions of Dig It, keeping in touch, sharing ideas.

**M**ade £175.65 at the Tilehurst show, much more than last year in spite of the changed date. Thanks to all who donated, helped setting up, selling, clearing up etc.

**C**ommittee members joined the Trustees and Oliver Jenks on two health and safety inspections

**J**enny Cottee started our 'keep on gardening' project.

**K**en Phillips took over as treasurer.

**L**iz Ellis maintained our web site.

**D**ave handled lots of e-mails from potential plot holders. Many found out about us from the website.

## Locking vehicle gates

The Trustees organised the new pedestrian and vehicle gates at Armour Hill to help with site security. If you are likely to drive onto the site you will need a key from the end of September (get it from Oliver Jenks in exchange for a £8.00 deposit). The same key fits both Polsted and Armour Hill locks. Please try to reduce tipping and other nuisance on our site by keeping the vehicle gates locked except at very busy times.

## Health and Safety

The Trustees held two inspections this year. One of the general issues they report is about *keeping all water troughs and tanks covered*. Please sort out any troughs or water containers located on your plot. *Remember to replace covers after using a tank.*



## Waiting list

**A**t the moment all plots are let and 19 people are waiting. We hope they will all have a plot within 18 months. The queue moved fast last year. No one waiting this time last year is still in the queue. Some got plots with us or elsewhere, others changed their mind.

## Seasonal reminders

**P**lease be considerate and choose a good time with **autumn bonfires**. Don't burn wet stuff—let it dry thoroughly; plastic must never be burnt. If the material is unsuitable for cold composting (diseased or containing evil weeds like bindweed) you could take it home to pass on to RBC for their new green waste collection.

**P**lant spinach, lettuce, salad onions and greens to eat in the spring. For early broad beans sow Aqua Dulce in the October. Some people do well with early peas. Garlic needs a long growing season; plant autumn onion sets for an early crop. Check it out in the Kitchen Garden Calendar (in your folder).



## Manure

**W**e have used two regular suppliers: Mrs Dayton 9572379 and Tim Metcalfe 9428001 Both supply well rotted manure. **Manure works wonders to improve the soil. The added humus helps to retain water in our fast-draining soil.**



## Our Police Officers

**N**eighbourhood policing is unfolding locally. Our team of officers (led by Sergeant Darren Brown) is now complete. PC 3406 Wayne Bohne covers the allotments (contact him using number below). Wayne is working closely with PC Dave Bright, who has Chris Bergman's old Tilehurst patch.

**T**he police decide how much time to spend in different areas of their patch according to how many URN numbers are recorded. Please phone **0845 8505 505** and give the details of **EVERY incident** of theft or criminal damage on our site. The only way to get a URN number is to phone this number (or call in to Castle St.).

## Fencing



**T**he first 20 panels for the internal fencing near the reserved land have just arrived. Meanwhile RBC says they will erect strong 2m fencing to protect neighbours and our allotments from flying footballs (and the footballers who follow them). Lets hope it is done before the football season gets into full swing!



## THA

**T**ilehurst Horticultural Association kicks off with the first in its winter program on 26 October. David Penny will give a talk on "Winter Colour in the Garden" in the village hall, Victoria Road at 7.45pm.

