

Misty and Paige (aged 10) - Paige has grown Potatoes and Broad Beans in her own corner of Nan, Wendy Levey's plot.



*In this news letter*

**Chairman's Report  
Notice of AGM**

7.30pm Thursday 27 Sept  
Tilehurst Village Hall  
Victoria Road

**Summary of accounts  
Keep on Gardening**

The build in words and pictures

**Our Police Officers**

Introducing PC Debbie Smith

**Committee Notes**

What have we done this year?



# It is Dis

**Chairman's report**

This has been a very busy year for the allotments. Many of you have helped with Keep on Gardening. This was a big project for a small society. We now have eight accessible plots which are already let and productive. The plots were formally opened by the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Chris Maskell on Saturday, 1 September. A big thank you to everyone who helped plan and build these plots.

Issues with site security continued through the early part of the year. I hardly dare say it, but I think that recently, there have been fewer incidents (even through the long school holiday) The new fencing on the recreation ground has helped reduce casual vandalism, however it is still important that all incidences of damage or theft are reported to the police.

Our accounts have been approved

by our honorary auditor, Julia Cottee. Tilehurst Show was our big fund raising event. We raised £282.00 - a fantastic result from the people who donated plants and produce and helped with the stall.

Finally, my thanks to your committee, the treasurer Ken Phillips and our secretary Jenny Cottee. They all keep our society running.

**AGM**

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> September.**

All plot-holders from both sites and all on the waiting list are very welcome at our AGM. Please come, talk about how things are going and give a steer to 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. As well as the regular items, we will have a report on the Keep on Gardening project.

**Outgoing Plot Holders Committee 2006/2007**

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		John Kirton	PA3
Committee	William Macphee	AA20		Gill Mills	PC9
	Wendy Levey	AB5a		Richard	
	John Butt	AA1a		Buckingham	AB11
	Colin Robinson	AA20		Mick Geater	CH

## Paying your rent

The Charity sent this Dig It enclosed with your rent letter. Your rent is should be paid before 1st October. You can pay in three ways:

- by Post,
- in person at the AGM
- on the main allotment site in the morning of Saturday 29th September (check your rent letter for the time).

The charity will be increasing the rent next year. Here is a summary:

	Due 30 Sep 2007	Due 30 Sep 2008
Full plot	£30	£36
Full plot - reduced	£20	£26
Half plot	£20	£21
Half plot - reduced	£15	£16
KOG bed	£9	£10
KOG bed - reduced	£7.75	£9

Reduced rates only apply to people living in Reading Borough (RG30) or the Parishes of Holybrook, Theale or Tilehurst. Eligible tenants are those whose main income is from State Benefits or Pension. The reduced rate is for one plot, any more will be charged at the full rate.

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 before a new tenant can get cracking.

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. Please do not let land lie fallow 'just in case'; this can cause nuisance to others and the land could be better used.

## Any Questions?

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

## TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 27 September 2007 7.30-9.00pm  
Tilehurst Village Hall, Victoria Road

### Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introduction** David Griffiths
  2. **Acceptance of Minutes of AGM (28 Sept 2006)**
  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 2007.
  5. **Report from Keep On Gardening**
  6. **Reports from the Charity** Oliver Jenks
- Interval** (Tea and a chance to chat or pay your rent)
7. **Discussion** of Site Issues and priorities for the next year, including the keep on gardening project and site security.
  8. **Elections** for Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and up to 9 members of the executive committee. Appointment of auditor.
  9. **Raffle**

**Close of Meeting**

## TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2007

### Income

Poor's Trust	£60.00
Tilehurst Village Show 2006&07	£407.25
Miscellaneous sales	91.60
Raffles	£99.40
Donations	£28.00
Bank Interest	£366.85

(Normal Trading) **Total** £1,053.10

### Expenditure

Site Maintenance	£264.00
Insurance	£22.00
Admin AGM	£16.07
Dig It copying	£85.05
Room Hire	£18.00
TVFM Annual m'ship	£12.50
Folder Updates	£33.15
Miscellaneous costs	£26.00

(Normal Trading) **Total** £476.77

Keep on Gardening Plot Grant	£9,997.00	KoG Plot Site Costs	£10,269.00
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**Grand Total** £11,050.10

**Grand Total** £10,745.77

Balance b/f 30 Jun 2006	£13,474.71		£5,494.10
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Net Income/Expenditure 30 Jun 2007 **£8,284.94**

### Balance as at 30 June 2007 is made up as follows

Bank accounts	£607.38
Petty cash	£40.57
Investments	£8,001.00
Prepaid expenses	£0.00
Accrued Income	£132.99
Accrued expenses	£(132.00)
TPLT grant to be spent	£(65.00)
BCF grant to be spent	£(300.00)
<b>Total 30 Jun 2007</b>	<b>£8,284.94</b>

**Ken Phillips** Treasurer **Julia Cottee** Auditor.



The KoG plot in January 2007

## Keep on Gardening

We have nearly finished what we set out to achieve. The germ of the idea was born in June 2006. We collected ideas and were ready to apply for a lottery grant in November. In January



2007 we heard that our application was successful. A subcommittee was formed to manage the project. They met frequently dealing with lots of detail to finalise proposals.



Young volunteers prepared the site in March.



The main work was completed in April. We decided on the shed and put it up.



In May recruiting gardeners started; most plots were in use before the ramp was built. Stones were removed from the soil, plot-holders added manure to the beds. They were cultivating the plots!

In June we receive important gifts: the bench from Waitrose



and the planters from Ericsson.

News of the grant from Berkshire Community Foundation meant that we could build the ramp in July.

Then the contractors could get going.



In August we started to paint the beds with masonry paint, leaving the parts that would affect growing crops until later in the year.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Chris Maskell came to formally open the KoG plots for us. At least 50 plot-holders and friends enjoyed champagne and cakes.



Sam presents the mayor with a box of fresh produce



The Mayor, with KoG plot-holders and Jenny and Dave

We have had various problems and mini-crises along the way, however on the whole things have gone as we hoped. The main priority has been to ensure more people can enjoy our hobby and keep on gardening, and that is happening.

Over twenty plot-holders and lots of others have helped with the project, doing multitudes of jobs. It has been wonderful. Well done everyone. All the effort was really worthwhile: now more people can start or carry on with a very rewarding hobby. Haven't we done well!



After the opening ceremony September 2007

## Join the Committee? THS Show

Your committee meet about once every two months. 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, bring your ideas and priorities. Why not give it a go?

## Waiting list

At the moment all plots are let and 33 people are waiting. We hope they will all have a plot within 2 years. The queue moves quite fast, since some people drop out if they get plots elsewhere or change their mind. Please keep on mentioning your hobby to others, it is an excellent way to keep healthy, it is worth going on the list.

## Seasonal reminders

Please be considerate and choose a good time with **autumn bonfires**. Only burn material unsuitable for cold composting (diseased or containing evil weeds like bindweed). Don't burn wet stuff; let it dry thoroughly; plastic must never be burnt.

Autumn is not just for harvesting produce, freezing and making jam. You can sow as well. Why not put in some spinach, lettuce ('winter density' or 'valdor' are good), 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 so should be planted in November; plant autumn onion sets for an early crop. Check everything in the Kitchen Garden Calendar (in your folder)

## Health and Safety Reminders

As you tidy up please check all your water containers are covered, move sharp protruding sticks, and make sure all pathways are open and clear of obstacles.

## Manure

Farmyard manure works wonders to improve the soil. The added hummus helps to retain water in our fast-draining soil. Plot-holders have used two regular suppliers: Mrs Dayton (9572379) and Tim Metcalfe (9428001) who both supply well rotted manure. Check the price when you phone.

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

This years Tilehurst Horticultural Society show was better than last, with more entries and good support. Several of our members did well, including Joe and Alan who only took on their plot in the spring.



If you want a bit of fun why not look out for the RHS Judges guide to exhibition flowers and vegetables. It explains exactly what the judges are looking for.

The THS needs our support, make sure you are a member and get supplies of fertilisers from them...(use it or lose it)

## Our police officers.

Neighbourhood policing is slowly coming to us. They say we will be told the latest version in due course in the mean time please keep on being 'crime aware', look after your property and be sensible.

The 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. It is helpful if you also let Jenny know what has happened (preferably in writing). If a crime is in progress you should use **999**.



In July plot-holders met new Kentwood beat officer PC Debbie Smith 2017 to talk through issues like vandalism and the nuisance behaviour of tiresome youngsters. She urged everyone not to be intimidated, but to address issues. Anyone who is causing a nuisance should be asked to leave.

Editor David Griffiths 9421141

## Committee notes

Our accounts for the year ending 30 June 2007 have been audited. This was the first year when we had no income from the Farmers Market. We got £366.85 interest on our savings. The income from the Tilehurst Show looks unusually large, but this is because it includes the cash from the 2006 show (held in July, due to the World cup) which was £175.65 as well as this years amazing total of £282.00.

Since last September...

The committee acted on the AGM support for the accessible plot (Keep On Gardening-KOG). We applied for grants; the plot is now in use.

Ken Phillips has had a busy year as treasurer with many entries relating to the KOG project

Ken kept an eye on our capital ensuring we get a steady income from our savings

Liz Ellis maintained our web site.

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

We produced 4 editions of Dig It, keeping in touch, sharing ideas.

We made a record amount at the Tilehurst show, after enormous efforts by lots of people Thanks to all who donated, helped setting up, selling, clearing up, etc.

Committee members joined the Trustees and Oliver Jenks on health and safety inspections.

## Locking Our Vehicle Gates

The vehicle gates at Chapel Hill, Armour Hill and Polsted Road have been kept locked (when not in use) since last October. After initial teething troubles with the locks the system seems to be working. You need a key to be sure you can drive onto the site. You get keys from Oliver Jenks in exchange for an £8.00 deposit. The same key fits Chapel Hill, Polsted Rd and Armour Hill locks. Please remember that the vehicle gates only are locked; don't lock the pedestrian gates by mistake.

## British Legion Womens Section

At very short notice lots of members gave surplus runner beans, beetroot etc. for our stall at the evening sale on 21st August We raised £50.05 and met up with lots of old friends. Many thanks for all the contributions.

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