



Rachel Littledale picking raspberries from her plot on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### Emergency contacts

#### Water

Polsted Rd supply: Mark Digweed  
52 Armour Hill. 9416162

Armour Hill supply: Malcolm Kessel  
56 Armour Hill. 9431416

or Jenny 9425169

#### Vandalism

RBC Antisocial Behaviour line:  
0845 605 2222

POLICE for EVERY incident:  
0845 8 505 505

#### Call 999 for trouble in progress

The landlord's agent, Oliver Jenks,  
can be contacted on 9428186

### Manure

Plot-holders have used two regular suppliers: Mrs Dayton (**9572379**) and Tim Metcalfe (**9428001**) Check the price when you phone.

# It is Dis

### Chairman's Note



As recently elected chair of your society, I succeed David Griffiths, who gave 5 years of dedicated and inspired service. I welcome this chance to introduce myself. I have lived in Tilehurst since 1986 and retired in 1997. I hope to meet as many of you as soon as possible. Please introduce yourself. Tell me your concerns and how you think we can improve the appearance, safety and productivity of the site. Your ideas will help the committee establish priorities for improvements in 2008.

If we work together, I am sure our strong committee, excellent secretary and experienced treasurer can achieve our goals in 2008. Please keep in contact if difficulties or personal crises prevent you working the land; with a waiting list of 34 applicants, uncultivated plots are unacceptable. I also hope we can bring some odd fallow areas into productive use.

Everyone cares about Health and Safety. Please take care to prevent accidents to yourselves and others. Please maintain safe paths round your plot and keep water containers covered.

The "Keep on Gardening" project illustrated what can be achieved by teamwork. We can now welcome these new gardeners to the site. It is good seeing how much can be grown in a small space.

### Committee news

At the next few meetings the committee plan to:

- >Decide which grass paths will be mown next year.
- >Think about social event and/or fun competitions.
- >Decide on improvement plans for the site.

### Waiting list

We have only one chair height bed on the KoG plot left to be let, with no vacant ordinary plots. There are 34 people waiting, most will be offered a plot within three years.

Plot Holders Committee 2007/2008						
Chair	John Butt	AA1a	9416944			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169			
Treasurer	Ken Phillips	AB14			Kate Jones	AB9a
Committee	William Macphee	AA20	Alan Clark	PD2	Ross Drean	AB22
	Richard Buckingham	AB11	David Griffiths	PB10	Wendy Levey	AB5a
			Colin Robinson	AA20	Mick Geater	CH

## Police Meeting

The new Neighbourhood Police Team will meet local people on **15<sup>th</sup> November 7.00-9.00 pm** at the British Legion to hear what people want them to deal with as their top priority. The police will concentrate future efforts on the issues that score the most votes.

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting and speak up if you want your concerns to receive attention.

Be crime aware. Make your property secure and hard to sell. Keep on reporting incidents using **0845 8505 505 (so getting a URN number for the incident)**. We need to ensure details of **EVERY incident** of theft or criminal damage on our site is passed on to the police and receives a URN record.

Dispersal orders (which give police powers to prevent groups of people causing a nuisance) cover the allotments. The decision about which areas to be included was based on the number of URN incidents recorded. If there are problems with groups of children being intimidating or causing damage please report them. The police decide where to concentrate their activity on the basis of the information they receive. Please make sure you keep them in the picture.

Please support the committee decision to keep the vehicle gates locked. **Don't leave the gate open unless you personally will be working VERY close and take responsibility.** The small amount of nuisance to car-drivers will help reduce the serious hassle some have to cope with, and possible trouble from dumping and travellers.



**AGM**  
A record number of plot-holders (from both sites) and friends came to the AGM. We debated issues like whether to have a skip this autumn (no), what to do about dumping (keep gates locked, and be vigilant). We compared gardening triumphs and disasters, had tea, and enjoyed a very successful raffle organised by John Butt and Margaret Ryan.

## Keep On Gardening

Gardening for the Disabled Trust came up trumps with a grant of £1000 to pay for the hose, trolley, watering-cans and notice-boards that the KoG gardeners identified as urgent priorities.



## Dumping

Dumping from visitors to the site and plot-holders is a nuisance. The allotments are a **no-dumping area**, and so is the reserved land. We want a clean site.

Please remember that you are responsible for your junk including green waste. You should save your junk on your plot for the third weekend in March when we get a skip service, or deal with it yourself- taking it home or take it to the tip.

Green waste should be composted. Diseased material can left to dry and then burnt.

## Seasonal reminders



Winter is a good time for sorting out odd areas that are not well-used, as well as for digging. It is the traditional time to add muck or compost to the plot, do construction projects, tidy the shed, clean up plant pots, plant shallot sets, and plan for next year.

## Xmas Lock-out

All gates (pedestrian and vehicle) will be locked from sundown on Christmas eve, until sundown on Christmas day.

## Water turn off

Water on the site will be turned off from 1<sup>st</sup> December-1<sup>st</sup> March. Please do not turn it on again, even for a short time. Also please report any problems that need attention during the turn off period (like drips and leaks). We want to get them sorted out promptly.

## Christmas Chips

Help yourself to last years supply before the next ones come along. RBC will collect Christmas trees and return the chippings to us for use on the site.

## Committee Newbie

*Kate Jones*

I must have put my hand up at the wrong moment at the AGM because I suddenly find myself unexpectedly on 'the Committee'.

If you were thinking that is a collection of boring old farts chewing the cud over the price of seeds (as I confess I did) then you would be in for a shock.

My first meeting took off at an alarming pace, John at the helm, navigating through reports, finances, planning, research... the list went on and on. Jenny, who must be the fastest scribbler in the west, was taking the minutes and barely had time to look up let alone drink her tea. (I must remember never to volunteer for that job!)

Two hours went by in a whirlwind of activity, decisions, proposals, suggestions, and at the end of it I had realised that you couldn't be a shrinking violet in this company!

Boring old farts? Not likely!

## Worms

Did you know that a worm eats half its bodyweight in waste every day!

I have kept a wormery for about three years now, and find my little pets the most amazing beasts. Not only do they eat all my kitchen waste (cooked or uncooked) but also in return they provide me with free liquid compost and wonderful nutrient rich worm casts ideal for seeds and bring on plants.

No need to arrange for a neighbour to feed them when I go on holiday, they just regulate their numbers to match the volume of waste. When I return and the waste increases, so do they. A worm can produce an egg capsule containing 10-15 baby worms, every two weeks. Clever little devils aren't they.

In these days of fortnightly bin collections they are the answer to your prayers. No need to put your leftovers in the wheelie bin; just give the worms a go and your problems are over. With no pong, no flies and no vermin.

Worms enjoy all scraps and parings, hair, dust from your vacuum cleaner, even gerbil droppings! For more information try the web site: [www.wigglywigglers.co.uk](http://www.wigglywigglers.co.uk)

