



Cyril 'The Slug Farmer' erecting his new 20 year old, second hand greenhouse. He has cleaned the glass with Jeyes Fluid and Scotch Bright pads. It's come up like new.

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

TAS Swap Shop

Following last year's success; on RESCUE weekend, use the swap areas for useful things that someone might want. Leftovers will be placed in the skip on Sunday afternoon.

It's a Big Day

Big Clear Up

After the AGM discussion your committee want to help improve the site and make sure it's as safe, attractive and productive as it can be. Health and Safety are the most serious issues. Have a look at your plot and the area immediately around and check that:

- There is a clear path all round your plot, with no obstacles or sharp bits of metal lurking for someone to trip or fall on.

- All water butts and troughs are covered.

Whilst checking these points please think "Is all the land well used?" Is the hoarded stuff really going to be used? You can get rid of surplus on R.E.S.C.U.E, the clear-up weekend. **Sat 15th & Sun 16th March.** We expect skips to arrive on Friday at both sites (main and Chapel Hill), courtesy of the event sponsors Yell and Thames Water, in return for general clear up duties. You can use the skips as soon as they arrive. Surplus junk left by the skips on

Saturday and Sunday morning will be taken away by extra RBC dustcart visits over the weekend. We rely on the help and co-operation of our neighbours in Polsted Rd. to park carefully and ensure the skip lorries can deliver and remove the skips (Friday and Monday) and to enable the dustcart to get through during the weekend.

Please help and make sure the skips are not left over-full after Sunday lunch, and remember NOTHING may be added **after Sunday 4.00 pm** (when the skips are 'topped off').

No BANNED substances (see notices) may be placed in the bins. **Sheet asbestos** may be stacked in the car park for special collection. Remember **NO GREEN WASTE** or stones. If the skips are misused we stand little chance of ever getting this free service again.

Members of the committee will act as informal skip monitors. Please make their job easy at this busy and important weekend.

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

Committee Notes

Your Committee have:

● Invested almost all we have (£8,200) in a high yield 6-month deposit bond. The interest gives us most of our income.

● Replied to Reading Council's request for information about land that should be safeguarded as Open Space. The committee said the 'reserved land' that was let out as allotments until 1998 should again be used for this purpose.

● Have decided to go into two new ventures (following AGM discussion): a visit to the roof garden at RISC, and a social event in the summer, perhaps with a scarecrow competition. Please lookout for information about these and say what you think. Your committee will need a steer to ensure the events earn your support.

Grass cutting: the committee are looking for quotes to cut the major paths. Peter Andrews has done an excellent job over the years, but others too are welcome to apply. Please contact Jenny Cottee or other committee members for details ASAP. You need to have a mower, and possibly a strimmer.

Water: will be turned on when frost danger is over.

Traffic: please be considerate and drive really slowly (5 mph) on the site and in Polsted Rd. We want to minimise damage to tracks. Whilst plot-holders have right of access down Polsted Rd., it is good to be considerate neighbours and do what we can to minimise inconvenience and damage. Please think if you really need to drive along the road: sometimes it is possible to leave your car behind.

Waiting list

There are no vacancies for conventional plots. There are more than 35 families on the waiting list (this time last year it was 15). We expect most to get plots by the end of summer 2009. Anyone who wants a plot should get in contact ASAP.

There is one vacant chair-height bed on the KOG (accessible) plot. If you know of anyone who might be interested please pass the message on.

Tilehurst Village Show

Is on **Saturday 14th June**. We aim to make about one third of our income at this local event on the next door Recreation ground. We sell plants at our stall. Please note the date, and pop in a few extra seeds for plants specially to sell to the general public. Popular items include herbs (e.g. chives, mint, parsley, basil) any type of beans, courgette, and tomatoes. Please label them. We also sell some vegetables, flowers, and rhubarb; but the main effort is plants.



Security

Our Neighbourhood Police team has been strengthened. (Contact number **0845 8505 505**). They keep a careful eye on the main site but cannot be around 24 hours a day. Please keep property safely locked out of sight, put tools and sticks away, avoid using glass for greenhouses and above all make sure you keep your shed locked. Make sure it is not an attractive hideaway. It must not be large welcoming or comfortable. If 'visitors' use your shed they may well cause damage to other plots en-route, and there is a real risk of fire. Please report all incidents.

Our neighbourhood PCSO, Jason Hood, has a surgery at Highlands School, Wardle Avenue every other Thursday 5.00-6.30pm (see notice on the board). Drop in to have a chat and let the team know what is going on.



Spare Land?

If you don't want all your plot please tell Oliver or Jenny. We could rent out your other half. No one wants the weeds to get a hold.

We are not the only site with a surge in demand. There are waiting lists for all sites in Reading. RBC has no vacant allotments.

What's the RISC?

Not another health and safety missive, but the Reading International Solidarity Centre, London Street, Reading. They have a roof garden there, which has been featured on BBC 'Gardeners World' no less. Themes of the garden include plants and biodiversity, organic cultivation and conservation, waste minimisation and recycling, renewable energy, food and nutrition, and herbal medicine.

On behalf of the Committee I have made contact with RISC with a view to organising a visit to the roof garden. May / June has been suggested as a good time to go. Entry is 'free' with a suggested donation of £2.50 per person (normal Garden Scheme rate). Access is limited by reason of stairs. Group size of 20 maximum, but we could probably get more than one appointment if demand is high. Expressions of interest can be registered with Richard Buckingham on 07738 003057. He will then make further contact with RISC.

Improve Your Plot

Free Chips: help yourself to the chippings in the car park. If you are likely to need some more tell Jenny. We do not want to waste car park space, so will only ask for a further load if there is clear need.

Manure: Mrs Drayton 9572379, and Tim Metcalfe 9428001 deliver well-rotted farmyard manure (check price when you phone). Several local stables let you bag up stable manure and take it away.

Vegetable plants

You may raise your own seedling and arranged swaps with friends. For extra plants, try White Tower Nursery at Aldermaston. Last year they sold any vegetable you can name (except roots) at £1.95 per tray of 12 plants. Everything was grown to be ready at the right time for planting out. Phone 9712123 to check what is planned to be available. TAS members can get a discount from White Tower when you show them 'Dig It' or say you are a member of Tilehurst Allotments Society.

Collins in Pangbourne give a discount to members of the Tilehurst Horticultural Society when they show their membership card.