



Gill and Rod  
take a  
break

### Emergency contacts

**Water**  
 Polsted Rd supply: Mark Digweed  
 52 Armour Hill. 0791 9166700  
 Armour Hill supply: See below  
 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

### Water vacancy

**Do** you have basic plumbing skills?  
**We** need someone to keep an eye  
 on our Armour Hill water supply. If  
 you can help, please contact Jenny.

# Tilehurst

### Tilehurst Village Show

**This** popular all-day family event is held  
 just on our doorstep at the **Victoria  
 Recreation Ground** on **Saturday  
 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

**It** is our major fund-raising event. We  
 sell all kinds of plants and surplus  
 produce at our stall. There are lots  
 of ways you can help. You could come  
 along to support our stall and encourage  
 friends and family to buy plants. We  
 will also sell cut flowers and rhubarb  
 (always popular, so bring us a few  
 sticks) You can drop off donations at  
 our stall any time from 10.00am.

**Plants** for both new and experienced  
 gardeners are welcome. We will have  
 sections for herbs, veg. and flower  
 plants, as well as a children's section.

**We** need volunteers to help with  
 selling, setting up and clearing up. Tell  
 Jenny if you can help for an hour or so.  
 Many hands make light work. Please  
 help exceed the target of £100. Thank  
 you to everyone who has already been  
 planting and preparing for the Show.

### Summer BBQ

**With** a Scarecrow & Decorated Plot  
 Number competition!

**Saturday** 19<sup>th</sup> July, at 3pm on the KoG  
 plot. We just need two volunteers with  
 suitable BBQ to help cook.

**Bring** your own drinks and a plate of  
 food to share, burgers and sausages will  
 be provided.

**If** you are entering either competition,  
 please have your entries on your plot  
 ready for judging by mid-day.  
 There will be a raffle, donations  
 gratefully received.

Return to: Ross Drean  
 3 Welland Close, Tilehurst, RG31 5NP  
 I will be at the TAS BBQ

Name .....

Number of people coming .....

Plot ..... Phone:.....  
 Please tick

I'm in the Scarecrow competition

I'm in the Plot number competition

### 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

## Site security

Please remember to keep the vehicle gates locked all the time unless you are working very close by and can see what is happening. You can get a key in exchange for a returnable deposit of £8.00 from Mr Jenks.

## Water

Please ensure that we do not waste water. Taps need to be turned off carefully, and problems need sorting out promptly. **Mark Digby** (PB9b) is kindly keeping an eye out for water and tap problems on site. *Please pass on news of any leaks or problems via the usual jungle systems.* It is better to get lots of messages than for everyone to think that someone else will do it.

### Tips for making best use of water

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

## Weeds

Keep your weeds under control. Our tenancy agreement is clear about avoiding nuisance to other plot holders. Weed seeds blowing from nearby plots can be a real nuisance in the second half of the year. You should do what you can to prevent them spreading. If you decide to use a contact weed killer you need to be careful about the wind direction. Burning the weeds off needs care. *Temporarily* covering the area with cardboard or carpet can be helpful.

## What to do in the summer

Apart from going on holiday!

As usual the weather is playing tricks, buckets of rain, gales, boiling hot then decidedly nippy. It's amazing that anything is growing, yet looking round the site people are getting good crops already and there is lots on the way.

Keep on top of hoeing and weeding. 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.

## Committee Notes

Your committee have:

- Organised a successful RESCUE event (well done everybody)
- Plan to enlarge the car park by removing the old railway-man's shed.
- Are organising events following suggestions at the AGM.
- Are making improvements to the KOG plot.
- Participated in the Health and Safety Inspection.
- Arranged for the grass cutting on main paths.
- Welcome suggestions from everyone, the next committee meeting is on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Liaise with police officers to keep them in the picture about relevant site issues.

### Traffic on site and Polsted Rd.

Please drive really slowly (**5 mph**) to prevent damage to tracks, plots or edges. Our neighbours in Polsted road have just paid out again for repairs to their road and we want to make them last.

## Events

**Oxford Road Community Garden** (near Reading West station and Lidl) are having an Open Day this summer. Look out for notices about it. There's lots to see and find out about from our near neighbours.

**B**BQ Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July – see over.

**T**ilehurst Horticultural Society show is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Entry forms will be available from the sheds in Gratwicke Rd and Oaktree Rd.

**R**ent day is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, and the TAS AGM will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

## Waiting list

There are more than thirty families on the list. We expect most will have plots by the winter 2009. If you know anyone who wants a plot, tell them to contact Jenny asap.



## Carpets

Do we need them?

At the CLEAR-UP weekend in March several of us moved large amounts of surplus carpets from various plots. Do they clear the ground? On a lot of plots removal of carpets revealed a vigorous, matted growth of couch grass and bindweed which appeared to flourish unchecked. Secondly, there were obvious signs that rats had nested beneath the carpets on some plots. I realise that some plot holders use carpet strips for paths but I believe their use should be kept to a minimum. Our landlords, the Poors Land Trust do not consider the extended use of carpets as a substitute for cultivation.

*Ken Phillips*

## Important reminders

After the Health and Safety Inspection Oliver Jenks wrote formally to the Society...

Dear Editor,

Following the recent Health and safety inspection of the main Allotment Site, I was asked to write to you, formally, to ask you to draw the attention of the members of the Allotment Society to some matters which affect the safety of people on the site and make life easier for all.

Firstly Plot holders should number their plots, clearly. This is a condition of the tenancy Agreement.

Secondly, all paths between Plots should be kept open, and the grass and other vegetation be kept cut.

Thirdly, where the level of the cultivated ground is below that of the path, it is particularly important that the grass on the path is kept low, to prevent anyone from missing their footing.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Jenks, Clerk to the Trustees.

Please do everything you can to follow these conditions of your tenancy. If there are difficulties please talk with your neighbours and sort something out. We can keep the site neat and tidy with the paths safe for all to walk on.

