

Sanford Brooker (right) with son Adrian (left) and friend Chester (centre). They have taken on Pat's Polytunnel; just the place for allotment work on a cold day.

### Emergency contacts

#### Water

Polsted Rd supply: Mark Digweed  
52 Armour Hill. 0791 9166700  
Armour Hill supply: Rod Mills  
5 Wendover Way 0778 9765652

#### 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



With  
Seasons  
Greetings

# It's Time to Rediscover

## AGM

We had excellent turnout of plot-holders (from both sites) at the AGM. We debated issues like rubbish; why can't people take their own junk home; if we have fewer bins there would be more space for cars..., heard from Martin about his bees and compared gardening triumphs and disasters in the last growing season.

The formal business items included news from the Trustees. Mr Jenks reported that in view of the long waiting list the Trustees had decided on a trial basis that new tenants would only be offered half size plots this year. Oliver also indicated that the Trustees will be more vigilant regarding checking that tenants comply with the conditions of the tenancy about keeping the plot well-cultivated. There will be regular checks and reminders will be sent.

The raffle raised £50, thanks to all who donated prizes, and Margaret for organising it. We also received the regular £60 donation from the Poors Lands Trustees.



Caroline, Kate and Ian chatting during the interval at the AGM

## Potato Weekend

Interested in spuds? Mark 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Jan in next year's diary. It is potato weekend with lots of fun for all, with talks and displays (and 150 varieties of potato on sale). Colin will be asking people if they want to go in a group.

Alternatively White Tower Nursery at Aldermaston and Collins in Pangbourne offer a wide choice of varieties. REMEMBER both offer discounts to THS members. White Tower give a discount to TAS plot-holders.

Plot Holders Committee 2008/2009						
Chair	John Butt	AA1a	9416944			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169			
Treasurer	Ken Phillips	AB14				
Committee	William Macphee	AA20	Kate Jones	AB9a	Ross Drean	AB22
	Richard		David Griffiths	PB10	Wendy Levey	AB5a
	Buckingham	AB11	Colin Robinson	AA20	Mick Geater	CH

## Allotments Needed

Future use of the reserved land is controversial. Our constitution says that we aim to 'promote allotment gardening in general'. So, your committee held a special meeting to consider the planning designation of the land off Kentwood and Armour Hills. The Trustees have held this area vacant for ten years. The committee decided to respond to the council planners' consultation about land use.

Our view is that the 'reserved land' should not be designated for housing, but should be returned for use as productive allotment land. If you want to have your say write to the council at

**Planning Department, RBC,  
Civic Center, Reading. RG31 7ZH**  
before 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## Site security

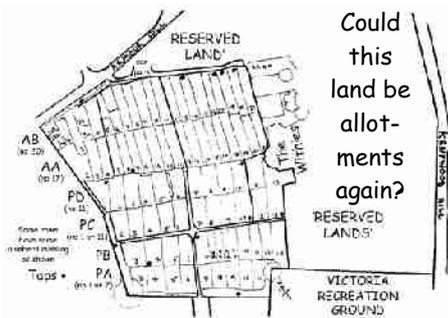
We had a wave of incidents since September so it is worthwhile reminding ourselves to be crime aware. Make your property secure and hard to sell. Most damage currently seems to be spur of the moment vandalism, so it is best to make life difficult for the few silly individuals who enjoy being annoying.

Keep reporting crimes like criminal damage 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. This way the dispersal orders, etc. will be maintained in our area. Please also pass on the news to Jenny or John.

## Manure



Manure improves heavy and fast-draining soils. 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.



## Seasonal reminders

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

## Water

We have had lots of problems with water recently; some related to the key for the Armour Hill supply. If you know anything about it please pass on the message to a committee member. Please report any problems that need attention during the turn off period (like drips and leaks). We want to get them sorted out promptly.

Both water supplies on the site will be turned off from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> March to protect the system from frost damage. Please do not turn it on again, even for a short time.

## Waiting List



Like all the allotments sites in Reading we have seen the increasing demand for plots maintained again this year. All the waiting lists continue to rise. This time last year we had 34 people waiting for plots, now there are 52. We had fewer vacancies than usual at the end of September, but even so it is good to see a few new people joining us on the site.

There is nobody waiting for an accessible plot so please pass the message on if you know of someone who might be interested.



## No dumping on site.

Dumping from visitors to the site and plot-holders has been a nuisance. The allotments and the reserved land are **no-dumping areas**.

Please remember that you are responsible for your junk including green waste. You can save your junk on your plot for the **14/15<sup>th</sup> March** (when we take part in RESCUE and get a skip service), or deal with it yourself- taking it home or to the tip. Green waste should be composted, or left to dry and then burnt (if diseased). There is a **SMALL** area hidden near the hedge off Armour hill, where green waste will do no harm, and is acceptable, but nowhere else please. Note, green waste is stuff that grows, not plastic, glass, metal, concrete, etc.

## Xmas Lock-out

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

## Committee news

At the next few meetings the committee plan to:

- Consider the Societies finances in light of reduced interest rates
- Think about social event and/or fun competitions.
- Decide on improvement plans for odd areas of the site