



Anne Davis in her new fruit cage

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

AGM 7:30pm Thurs 24 Sept
Tilehurst Village Hall,
Victoria Road.

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.

It
is
his

Chairman's report

May I extend a warm welcome to all new plot-holders and congratulate them on their strenuous efforts to grow their own and join our ever increasing company of amateur gardeners.

Our finances remain in good order, but the fall in interest rates means that we must rely on income from local shows, the annual barbecue and numerous raffles. Thanks are due to Ken Phillips, treasurer, and Julia Cottee, honorary auditor, for the annual accounts published elsewhere in this newsletter.

The most serious matter for your committee in the past year was Reading Council's request for comments about the possibility of building on different sites in Reading, including the land off Kentwood Hill that used to be allotments, but has

been kept vacant for the past decade; the "reserved land". On your behalf, the committee submitted the views of the society (first formulated in 2001) that the land should remain designated for allotments and be released for use. The latest position will be reported at the AGM.

Security is always a major concern, as is health and safety, so please continue to cooperate with the trustees in our joint efforts to restrict vandalism and curtail the illegal dumping of rubbish. Please continue to be vigilant.

Finally, as chairman and on your behalf may I record a special thank you to the secretary, to the editor and to every member of the committee who serve you so well.

John Butt 31 August 2009

Outgoing Plot Holders Committee 2008/2009

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	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

Paying your rent

The Charity sent this Dig It enclosed with your rent letter. Your rent should be paid at the beginning of October. You can pay in three ways:

- by post,
- in person at AGM (24 September)
- on the main allotment site in the morning of Saturday 26 September (check your rent letter for the time).

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

	Due 30 Sep 2009	Due 30 Sep 2010
Full plot	£40	£44
Full plot - reduced	£28	£32
Half plot	£24	£27
Half plot - reduced	£18	£21
KOG bed	£10	£10

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.



This news letter was prepared by the plot holders committee.
Web site: www.tilehurstallotments.co.uk

TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 24 September 2009 7.30-9.00pm

Tilehurst Village Hall, Victoria Road

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introduction** John Butt
2. **Acceptance of Minutes of AGM (2 October 2008)**
3. **Report from the Chair** John Butt
4. **Treasurers Report** Ken Phillips Discussion about financial issues and accounts for year ending 30th June 2009.
5. **Reports from the Charity** Oliver Jenks

Interval (Tea and a chance to chat or pay your rent)

6. **Discussion** of Site Issues and priorities for the next year, including security, locking gates, wood chips, etc.
7. **Elections** for Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and up to 9 members of the executive committee. Appointment of auditor.
8. **Raffle**

Close of Meeting

Treasurers Report

Our accounts for year ending 30 June 2009 have been audited. They show a different picture to this time last year. Then we reported that our savings earned £416 interest. This year, due to vastly reduced interest

rates, our savings only earned £86.18. We expect less next year.

Our committee are keeping a careful eye on finances to maintain activities in these new circumstances.

TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2008

Income		Expenditure	
Poor's Trust	£60.00	Site Maintenance	£238.00
Friends of Berks Hosp Show 2009	£210.00	Admin AGM	£14.99
Miscellaneous sales	£72.50	Dig It copying	£99.66
Raffles	£151.00	Room Hire	£18.00
Bank Interest	£86.18	Website Costs	£26.09
Donations	£53.00	Miscellaneous costs	£43.44
		Folder Inserts	£22.57
Total	£632.68	Total	£472.75
Balance b/f 30 Jun 2008	£26,512.96		£17,583.14
Net Income/Expenditure 30 Jun 2009	£8,929.82		

Balance as at 30 June 2009 is made up as follows

Bank accounts	£495.53
Petty cash	£38.53
Investments	£8,501.00
Accrued Income	£30.76
Accrued expenses	£(136.00)
Total 30 Jun 2009	£8,929.82

Ken Phillips Treasurer **Julia Cottee** Auditor.

Editor David Griffiths 9421141

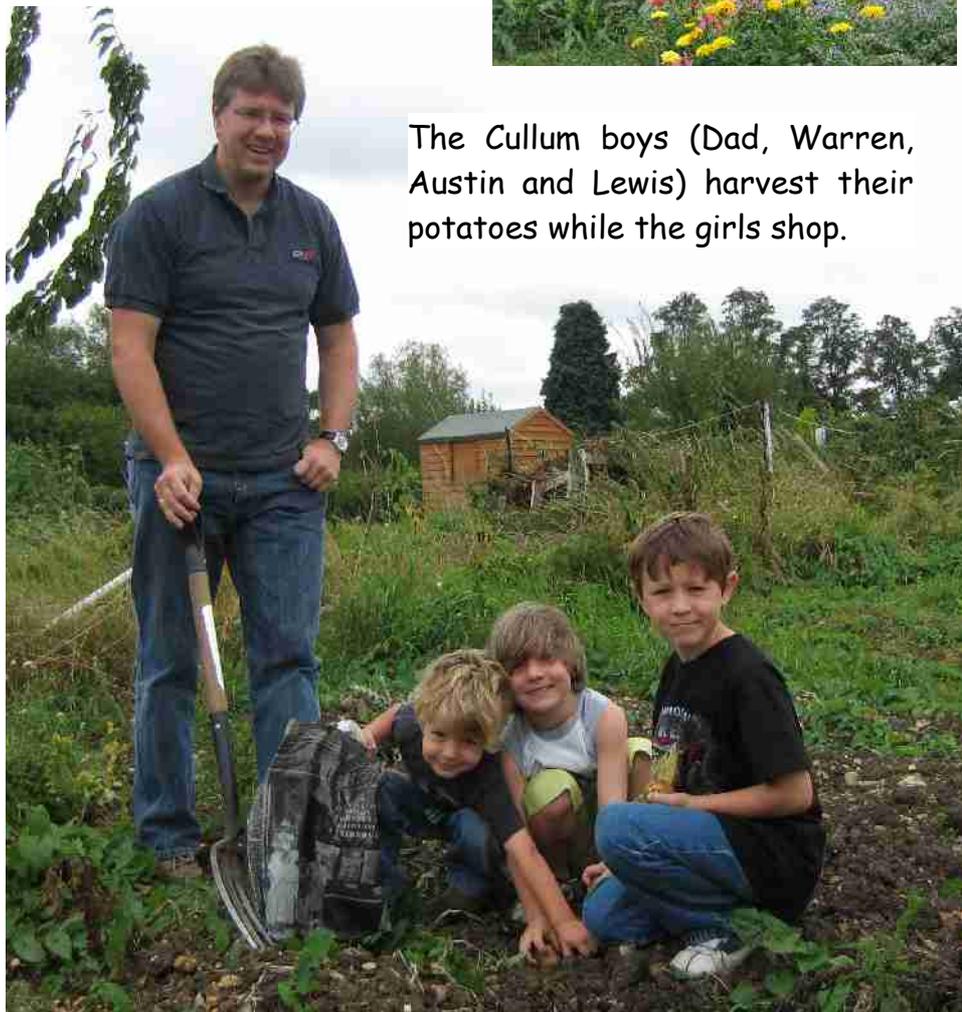
All contributions and letters welcome
email: TilehurstAllotments@hotmail.com

Our police officers

Neighbourhood policing remains problematic. Recruitment difficulties mean our team varies far too much and is still understaffed. Meanwhile, 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. 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 (or call in to Castle Street Police Station). It is helpful if you also let Jenny or Richard know what has happened (preferably in writing).

Note this number is DIFFERENT from the ASB phone number on the police notice on the gates. The 505 number (SOS) is the most important- it gets into the local police statistics; the other number does not seem to count. If you have time do both, otherwise do the 505 one for crimes and ensure we get our fair share of police time.



The Cullum boys (Dad, Warren, Austin and Lewis) harvest their potatoes while the girls shop.

June Show

We had a plant stall at the Show run by the Friends of the Royal Berks Hospital in June. This raised £242 for society funds. A big thank you to those who donated plants, produce and flowers, also to those who helped on the stall.

Jenny arranging tomato plants for sale on our stall



Spare Gardening Books?

Bring them to the AGM. Others might like them and we might make a bit of cash for society funds from donations.

Waiting list

At the moment all plots are let and 51 people are waiting (3 more than this time last year). We expect most will have a plot within 2 years. The queue moves quite fast; some people drop out if they get plots elsewhere or change their mind. Keep mentioning your hobby to others; it is an excellent way to keep healthy and eat delicious fresh vegetables. Tell them to get their name on the list!



See Seasonal Reminders

Manure

Farmland manure works wonders to improve the soil. The humus helps to retain water in our fast-draining soil. Plot-holders have two suppliers: Mrs Dayton (9572379) and Tim Metcalfe (9428001) both supply well rotted manure.

August Show

This year we had a stall at a second show run by the Tilehurst Residents Association on the Victoria Recreation Ground. The total takings were nearly £200, including £49.00 on the raffle. An excellent result, congratulations on very good team work.

The fresh local produce was very popular, the sales team (Richard, Judith and Chris) said all they had to do was show it to eager buyers



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.

If you have piles of stuff to get rid of you should:

- keep it until RESCUE clean up in March, or
- take it to the civic amenity site yourself.

Only small items should be placed in the bins. Please take most of your rubbish home. Remember:

There is no dumping area on site.

Health And Safety

As you tidy up please:

Check all your water containers are covered.

Move sharp protruding sticks near paths.

Keep the grass path well cut so the dangers are easily visible (particularly important where there are steep drops).

There will be a **site inspection on Saturday 26 September**. Please sort out problems asap.



Summer BBQ

Another great success despite dubious weather. The BBQ raised £42 for society funds. Thank you to all who helped and for all the delicious food brought along to share.

