

John Kirton and his Golden Delicious apple tree. It was a gift from his son and is now in his son's memory. Each year he gives some apples to his grand children. Hopefully, this is the start of his new orchard!



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

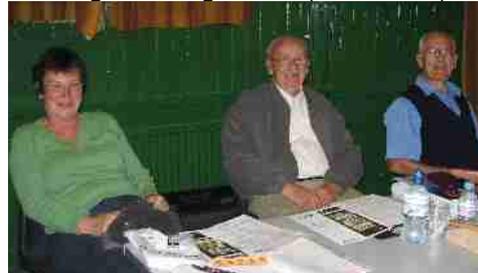


It is Dis

AGM

We had an excellent turnout of plot-holders (from both sites) at the AGM. The most significant matter for discussion was about security on the main site.

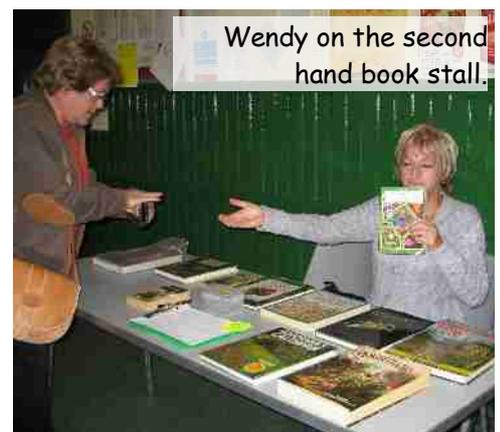
When he closed the debate Chairman John Butt said that he and the new committee had received a clear message to consider security carefully and come up with practical actions. So far the committee have researched into raising the gates and arranged a meeting with neighbours (see advert).



The Society's officers, Jenny (Secretary), John (Chair) and Ken (Treasurer)



Margaret running the raffle. We made £43.00



Wendy on the second hand book stall.

Plot Holders Committee 2009/2010						
Chair	John Butt	AA1a	9416944			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169			
Treasurer	Ken Phillips	AB14				
Committee	William Macphee	PC2	Kate Jones	AB9a	Jennie Drean	AB22
	Richard		David Griffiths	PB10	Karen Fidler	PB12
	Buckingham	PD13	Colin Robinson	AA20	Mick Geater	CH

Site Security

We agreed at the AGM that site security needs to be improved. This is something that we can all help with.

If you spot any unwelcome newly rooted brambles please transplant them to plug gaps in our boundary hedge. The Trustees welcome help in strengthening and plugging gaps in the hedge.

Please lock vehicle gates. The committee urge you to keep the vehicle gates locked all the time except when you are actually using them, or can see a plot-holder coming to use them. We are concerned to prevent dumping, particularly when arrangements at the Civic Amenity Site are tightened up.



The gates are not strong enough to swing on. A group of children swinging on the gate are rocking the post foundations and ultimately breaking the gate. Please make sure that any children you know are aware that swinging on gates breaks them.

Waiting list

In view of the long waiting lists for both normal and accessible plots the Trustees have decided to continue their two experimental policies introduced last year:

1. only to let out half plots and,
2. not to let out additional land to existing tenants.

If you are having difficulties in meeting the terms of the tenancy agreement, perhaps due to illness or family circumstances please let Oliver (or Jenny) know. Oliver can exercise discretion about situations, but he will only do so if he knows the reason why tenants are not cultivating plots.



Seasonal reminders

Winter is a good time for digging, adding muck or compost to the plot, doing construction projects, tidying the shed, cleaning plant pots, and ensuring all land is ready for use. Traditionally people plant shallot sets on the shortest day, and harvest them on the longest day. There is still just time to sow broad beans (get some aqua dulce seed for 60p from the hardware shop)

Reminders

Report all crimes. Keep on reporting crimes like criminal damage using **0845 8505 505** (get 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. Please also pass on the news to Jenny or John

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 before.

Water turn off: 1 December. Both water supplies on the main site will be turned off until 1 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: RBC will collect Christmas trees from our carpark and return the chippings to us for use on the site as usual. See notices in the press.

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 should save your junk on your plot for **clear up in March** or deal with it yourself; take it home for your bin or to the tip.

Green waste should be composted, or left to dry and then burnt (if diseased).

To Plot-holders and neighbours

Please come to a meeting on **Monday 23 November 7.15-8.45pm at Newbery Lodge, Armour Hill.** to talk about

Site Security and ASB locally

Working together to improve the situation, how can we reduce vandalism on and near Armour Hill/Polsted Rd allotments

Do neighbours suffer any problems with ASB?

Can we identify the troublemakers?

How can we work together?

For more details and to pass on any ideas contact Jenny on 9425169, 85 Westwood Rd Tilehurst

Busy week

There are two important events coming up. First, see the invitation above to plot-holders and neighbours on **Monday 23rd November**. Please come. Let's work together to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Look out for the poster asking local residents to come to a meeting on **Thursday 26th November** at 7.00pm at The British Legion, Downing Rd, to discuss the priorities for policing in Tilehurst. It is a good opportunity for people to make their voice heard, and to establish priorities for future action.



Contributions Welcome

Our website and Dig It would both benefit from more contributions from members. Dig it needs more articles, pictures and cartoons. There is more space on the website. How about seasonal recipes, recent photos, etc.

You can email contributions to our address (see page footer) or pass on website material to Liz via a committee member.

FREE

Ready-Mixed Compost Materials
Grass cuttings and leaves available collect from Routh Lane contact Oliver on 9428186 for details

Manure improves heavy and fast-draining soil. 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.