



John and Margaret running the raffle at our summer BBQ

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 30 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's Dis

Chairman's report

It continues to be both a pleasure and a privilege to serve you and make new friends whilst noticing how well everyone coped with what was a difficult growing season for most amateur gardeners.

Our finances remain in good order, inspite of falling interest rates, mainly due to the income derived from local produce shows, the very successful annual BBQ, numerous raffles and the generosity of Waitrose. Once again our thanks are due to Ken Phillips Treasurer, and Julie Cottee, honorary auditor and all the contributors who gave so generously whenever asked.

The matter of possible building on many sites, including land owned by the trustees, has still not been

resolved. Your society will continue to represent your interests as plot-holders. People continue to join the waiting list, so if you are having any difficulties in cultivating your existing plot(s), please consider allowing maybe a half-plot, if not a full one to be available. Carpeting is not a solution or an alternative to cultivation.

Finally as Chairman and on your behalf, may I personally thank every member of the committee for their support and in particular our secretary and our editor who continue to lead by example.

31 August 2010

Outgoing Plot Holders Committee 2009/2010

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	PC2	Kate Jones	AB9a	Jennie Drean	AB22
	Richard		David Griffiths	PB10	Karen Fidler	PB12
	Buckingham	PD13	Colin Robinson	AA20	Mick Geater	CH



Tomatoes

Treasurers Report

Ken reports another successful year for the society, but there remain some concerns for the future.

The good news is that our net worth increased by £493.00. Thanks to the work of helpers on stalls at two shows netting £400.00 (including their raffles). We also benefited from a donation of £261.00 from the Waitrose Community Fund.

The bad news is the problem of obtaining a reasonable rate of interest remains. A couple of years ago we received £416.00 per year. This year we received £51.00 on more than £8,500 in the bank. We are now very dependent on fine weather and successful fund-raising events. Ken has investigated lots of different schemes but not found a better place for our nest-egg than the HSBC bond. Alternatives have unsatisfactory terms and conditions.

The accounts for y/e this June have been audited (see below). In doing so an error in reporting last years accounts was found. So both years' accounts will be presented at the AGM.

TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 30 September 2010 7.30-9.00pm
Tilehurst Village Hall, Victoria Road

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introduction** John Butt
 2. **Acceptance of Minutes of AGM (24 September 2009)**
 3. **Report from the Chair** John Butt
 4. **Treasurers Report** Ken Phillips Discussion about financial issues and accounts for year ending 30th June 2010.
 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, Fund raising, etc.
 7. **Elections** for Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and up to 9 members of the executive committee. Appointment of auditor.
 8. **Raffle**

Close of Meeting



Pumpkin

Any Questions?

to answer at the AGM must be handed in a few days before the meeting. Please give them to Jenny to pass on, or hand directly to Oliver Jenks.



Sweet Corn

TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2010

Income		Expenditure	
Poor's Trust	£60.00	Site Maintenance	£266.00
Friends of Berks Hosp Show 2010	£207.00	Admin AGM	£14.26
Tilehurst Village Show 2009	£156.00	Stall hire	£25.00
Miscellaneous sales	£20.54	Dig It copying	£108.56
Raffles	£160.30	Room Hire	£18.00
Bank Interest	£50.91	Website Costs	£32.40
Donations and Co-op dividend	£319.79	Miscellaneous costs	£0.00
		Folder Inserts	£16.56
	Total		Total
	£974.52		£480.78
Net Income/Expenditure 30 th June 2009	£8,929.82		
(reported in Dig It Sep 2009)			
Correction to opening balance	£203.96		
Net Income/Expenditure 30 th June 2010	£9,627.52		

Balance as at 30 June 2010 is made up as follows

Bank accounts	£1240.43
Petty cash	£23.53
Investments	£8,501.00
Accrued Income	£2.56
Accrued expenses	£(140.00)
Total 30 th June 2010	<u>£9,627.52</u>

Ken Phillips Treasurer **Julia Cottee** Auditor.

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 (30th September)
- on the main allotment site between 9-10am on Saturday 2nd October.

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

	Due 30 Sep 2010	Due 30 Sep 2011
Full plot	£44	£47
Full plot - reduced	£32	£35
Half plot	£27	£29
Half plot - reduced	£21	£23
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.

Allotment Available Now

A small plot covered in brambles and long grass is available; not everyone's 'cup of tea'. Initial hard work will be rewarded by two years rent free.

If you're interested in tackling this plot, e-mail tpic@talktalk.net, or write to Oliver Jenks, PO Box 2802, Reading, RG30 4GE by 30th Sep. Queries as above, or to Jenny. At the beginning of October, the plot will be offered to the applicant highest on the waiting list.



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



Committee news

Our committee are keeping a careful eye on the finances whilst maintaining a lively, active Society.

Decided to buy a banner to advertise our stall at indoor and outdoor events.

Are considering a second double page (or colour) edition of the 50th edition of Dig It

Have worked on simplifying their record-keeping/administration arrangements

Have liaised with police regarding recent incidents

Join the committee?

The whole committee stands down at the AGM. There is plenty of opportunity for new blood. There are jobs and tricky issues ahead. We need lots of different skills. Please help your society stay healthy, new ideas are always welcome. Your committee meet about six times a year, please think about putting your name forward.

Health and Safety

As you tidy up please...

Check all water butts and troughs are covered, except, of course, when they are being used.

Move sharp protruding sticks away from path edges.

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

The next H+S inspection will be on Saturday 9th October. (11am at the main site.)

Waiting List

To keep records up to date, our landlord has posted copies of this Dig It to all the people on the waiting list. There is also a letter asking if they are still keen to have an allotment on this site.

In spite of the long waiting list please do not get down-hearted at the probable 3 year wait. The list does move, people do drop out, and it is possible that more land could be made available. So if you are on the list stay signed up and if you have a plot already keep mentioning your hobby to other people.

There is a short list of people waiting for an accessible KOG plots. If you are interested, get your name on the ordinary list and mention that you need an accessible plot.

Letting out plots

It is good that lots of local people want to take up our healthy cheap hobby. Gardening is good for all ages, mental and physical health, the family budget, and is fun. The bad news is that there are no plots currently available here, and a three-year wait is probable. After many years of relaxed management our landlord, the Charity, has followed a more vigorous approach for about five years and have been tackling the problem by:

- Only renting out half plots to new tenants.
- Not renting extra land to existing tenants.
- Reminding tenants to keep land cultivated (whilst being understanding of personal circumstances)
- Dividing a whole plot into two whenever an existing tenant gives up.

Some families have had more than one plot since plots were readily available. As they give up the plots are released to more families. Following this rigorous management approach, the list is down to 42 non-plot-holders.

Neglected allotments

The allotments off Kentwood Hill are now very neglected and overgrown. The land-lord keeps this 'reserved land' unlet. There are very few odd corners of the main allotment site that remains uncultivated

The people on the waiting list hope that some way will be found to release the 'reserved land' for cultivation.

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.

Hospital Show

Once again, in June we had a stall at the Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital on the Victoria Recreation Ground. The total takings were £246.15, including £39.30 on the raffle. An excellent result. Thank you to the helpers and for the plant and produce donations.



Julia peers around the old banner

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.

There is no dumping area on site.

Autumn is not just for harvesting produce, freezing and making jam. You can sow as well. Plant some spinach, lettuce, ('winter density' or 'valdor' are good) pak choi, salad onions and greens to eat in the spring. For early broad beans sow Aqua Dulce in the October. Some people do well with early peas. Garlic needs a long growing season so should be planted in November; plant autumn onion sets for an early crop. Check everything in the Kitchen Garden Calendar.

Remember next years fund raising. Could you propagate something to sell?

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

Site Security.

Please be 'crime aware', look after your property and be sensible. You should keep your plot tidy. If you keep valuables like power tools on site you are inviting trouble. It is best to make everything difficult to sell by marking it, and keep tools chained up. Wheelbarrows that are left around and not secured to a shed are sometimes stolen for fun or because they are useful.

The police decide how much time to spend in different areas of their patch according to how many URN (crime) numbers they record. Please 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. It is helpful if you also let Jenny or Richard know what has happened (preferably in writing).

Recent problems

We have had some trouble in the last few months-with two sorts of incidents.



People looking for saleable items do most damage to sheds and padlocks. Try to make it easy to see there are no fuel-driven machines in your shed. Do not leave any valuable scrap metal around.

Youngsters tend to socialise and mess about. To stop them please make sure any chairs are secured, and your shed does not look spacious and inviting. Don't leave bamboos, etc. around; screen pumpkins from prying eyes.



Pictures of recently damaged shed locks.

Editor David Griffiths 9421141

Summer BBQ

Another success despite clashing with a football match. The BBQ raised £26 for society funds. Thank you to all who helped especially Ross and Jennie for organising it.



The Tilehurst Show



Our New Banner has its debut at the Tilehurst Show

The Tilehurst Show on 14th August 2010 was the first fund-raising event that has happened in the middle of August when most plot-holders are away and unable to help. It was also the wettest event we have ever experienced. Few people ventured out. The skies opened in the afternoon. Luckily it stopped raining by about 3.15pm so sales picked up a bit. We did quite well in the circumstances, but it was a good reminder of our dependence on good weather and lots of donations of produce from plot-holders. Thanks to all the brave plot-holders who helped and supported our stall. In spite of everything we more or less sold out and made £141.60 including £17 for the raffle of Carolyn's lovely basket of produce.



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