



The Mapley and Parry families have just got their shared plot. Joseph and Olivia Parry are starting the winter digging.

Happy 50th Birthday

Yes, this is the 50th issue of Dig It. It has got better and better since issue 1. Who remembers the two sides of A5 with no pictures? It is even better in colour, see it on our website. The editorial team is looking forward to the next 50 issues of snappy titbits of news and opinions. Remember all contributions welcome.

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

Dig It

No RESCUE 2011?

We need to recycle and re-use as much as we can, but inevitably there is stuff you want to get rid of, especially if you have taken over a new plot. We used to ask people to keep rubbish on their plot until March when the great RESCUE clean up happens (explained in your folder).

But next year the RESCUE organisers have decided there will not be any skips. We will need to think very carefully about how we can participate in the event. So please do not save rubbish.

Your committee will work on the problem, however in the meantime:

- **Y**our rubbish is your problem and you should get rid of it yourself. This is unfortunately true even if it was left on your plot by a previous tenant.
- **T**here is NO dumping area on site and there are NO rubbish collections from the site. Please take your rubbish home, or to the tip.
- **C**ompost as much as you can, All green and woody plant material will rot.
- **U**se stones and hard-core to build up potentially dangerous gaps and make up paths. But spare a thought for the guy with the mower on the main paths.



Ross Drear is still our champion carrot grower!

Kate's Top Tip

You can protect your pot plants from slug and snail attack by:
(a) smearing a band of Vaseline around the circumference of the pot or
(b) wrapping around a length of double sided sticky tape.

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		
	Richard Buckingham	PD13	David Griffiths	PB10	Karen Fidler	PB12
			Colin Robinson	AA20	Mick Geater	CH

Committee Notes

At the AGM we decided to check the state of the tap-posts and renew any rotten ones during the winter months. This necessary project will cost the Society a fair bit for materials and will be time-consuming; we have a lot of taps. If you can help with the work please tell a committee member.

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

Both water supplies on the main site will be turned off on **1st December** until **1st March**. Please do not turn it on again, even for a short time. Please report any problems that need attention during the turn off period (like drips and leaks). We want to get them sorted out promptly.

RBC will collect Christmas trees from the car-park and return the chippings to us for use on paths etc. on our site as usual. See notices in the press and on the car-park gate about collection dates.

The Health and Safety inspection did not reveal any major problems, however please continue to be vigilant:

- Keep water-butts and troughs covered.
- Fill any holes by or in paths and remove trip-hazards.

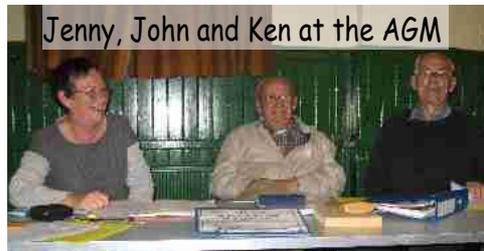
Facebook

Tilehurst Allotments is joining the social networking revolution, we have a facebook group. This has been set up so you can find out what others are growing and when, ask for help and advice or just get to know fellow plot holders. If you have any ideas or issues you want to put to the committee you can also include this on here. A discussion forum has been set up and you can upload your photos and videos.

To be a member of the group you need to have a facebook account. It is free and simple to set up, you just go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions for signing up. Remember to set up your privacy settings or your details will be available to all. Once you have your account you can access the group through this link and request to join

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=146450415398415>

Hope to see you online soon.



Allotment Dearth

Did you notice in the local press that there is a considerable shortage of allotments in Earley? In case you are wondering, a lot of Earley Pools Land was sold off for £6 million in the 1980's. Now there is a shortage of allotments.

Readung Council will be consulting again about the plans for land use early in 2011. It will be a similar process to the one that happened at the start of 2010. It has to be done again because of the changes brought in by the coalition government. Look out for opportunities to have your say.

Security

Please pass on the URN number for any crime you have reported to Jenny. We are checking up that the information does really get to our local police team.



Everyone is invited to a meeting about local police services at the British Legion, Downing Road at 7.00 pm on **18th November**.

You are also invited to fill in a questionnaire and tell the police what you think about local issues. You can ask for a paper version or fill it in on line by looking for the Tilehurst East NAG page on www.uknags.org.uk.



Guinea Pig Litter to Compost

Chriessie has bags of Flax bedding (looks like tiny wood chips 3-20mm) with some hay. It comes complete with free guinea pig droppings! It makes wonderful compost and decomposes within 6-8 weeks. Approx 4 black bin bags available for collection each week from Tilehurst, or she could deliver if required. Contact Chriessie on

0845 838 7458

or info@gorgeousguineas.com

Waiting list

To remain on the waiting list you must reply to Oliver's September letter; and say yes. If you have forgotten it would be best to do it again to confirm your place on the list. (See front page for contact details, you could also let Jenny know.) Currently there are more than 10 people who risk loosing their place in the queue.

There are also a few people who have not paid their rent; please hurry up and contact Oliver...

Welcome to New Tenants

We all hope you will enjoy a great hobby, growing what you want on your own patch of soil in nice friendly surroundings.

October is the start of our rent-year, a busy time for Oliver. Recently he has let 11 half plots and 2 accessible plots. A couple of brave new tenants have taken on the last remaining bramble patches. Now all the land is let.

We are pleased that the queue moved faster than we feared: the most recent tenants were on the waiting list for about 15 months. We now have only one vacancy: a chair-height accessible plot. There are now 33 people on the list. There are also several people who already have half plots and would really like some more land.

Please keep on mentioning your hobby to others, it is an excellent way to keep healthy. The queue does move. so it is worth going the list.

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 anything until it has dried out.

Keep on digging, clearing up and doing construction jobs. It is much better to do a little and often, rather than rushing in the New Year.

Garlic, onions, shallots and broad beans can be planted in November. And there is the winter digging; manure improves both heavy and fast-draining soils. Plot-holders have used two regular suppliers: Mrs Dayton (**9572379**) and Tim Metcalfe (**9428001**) who both supply well rotted farmyard manure. Check the price when you phone.