



Andrew Norris forking his plot

Emergency Contacts

Water

Polsted Rd supply: Mark Digweed
52 Armour Hill 0791 9166700
Armour Hill supply: Rod Mills
5 Wendover Way 0778 9765652
Chapel Hill supply: Mike Geater
07768 902634

Vandalism

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

Spring Cleaning

We don't have any routine on-site bin collections. You should take stuff home (especially after you have cleaned out your shed/greenhouse). The single bin is left for odd items of litter, it is dealt with by a kind volunteer.

However, **Saturday 12th and Sunday 13rd March** is **RESCUE** weekend. This is the weekend to get rid of junk. The arrangements are different this year, there will be **NO SKIPS**; none on Kentwood hill, Armour Rd or on our site.

Allotment rubbish and recycling stuff will be collected from the main car park during the weekend. You can get rid of your junk by:

Collecting allotment stuff in the car park between Friday afternoon and Sunday 3.00pm.

Sort the stuff into metals, wood, general rubbish, dangerous waste, etc. following the notices exactly.

Be alert and deter visitors/neighbours from dumping any stuff.

Volunteer to help make the new system work by helping sort the stuff into correct piles (a good way to get first dibs on useful things that are being thrown away.) Contact Jenny, or any committee member.

There will be **NO PARKING** in the car park from Friday afternoon until 5.00pm Sunday 13 March.

Plot Challenge

A very rough half plot with long grass, brambles, bushes and a tree is available now. Good progress in cultivation will be rewarded with a rent rebate in September. If you are interested, contact Oliver Jenks, preferably by post at P.O. Box 2802, Reading RG30 4GE before 10th March. The plot will go to the applicant highest on the waiting list.

Social Event? Summer BBQ?

Ross and Jennie organised three excellent summer BBQs. Its time to pass the baton on to someone else. We need your ideas for a social event. What would attract you to join in? When is a good time? Can you help? Contact Jenny or any committee member.

Tilehurst Horticultural Society

Their next free talk is 'Vegetable growing for beginners' - 7.45pm in the Village Hall on 3rd March; all welcome.

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

**It's
Dibs**

Planning Consultation

Yes, another one! The changes of government have brought changes in planning rules. So Reading Council must consult again about land use, like it did last year. The planners have made changes in response to comments made last year. What you say matters. So even if you have commented several times before, say it again. Have a look at the latest versions and say what you think.

The issue of most concern to Tilehurst Allotments Society is whether houses should be permitted on any of the 'reserved land' that the landlord has held vacant for more than a decade.

The good news is that Reading Council still say that the main site, the recreation ground and most of the 'reserved land' should be designated as 'public and strategic open space'. However they also say site SA8a (part of the 'reserved land' that has been let as a builders yard for many years) should be used for housing. They have reduced the size of the site following our comments on the history of the land. However, the precise boundaries of this area are not clearly shown on their map.



You can see the maps and papers on the RBC website or in the library. On Thursday 10th March, you can meet the planners at Tilehurst Library. They will be there from 2pm until 7pm. The closing date for comments (email, letter or postcard) is 4th April.

For more background information, see Dig It Issue 47, available online at: www.tilehurstallotments.co.uk/TextFrames/ANL47.pdf. Some people say the reserved land is a mess. Remember? Our landlord has kept this fertile allotment land unused for more than 10 years hoping to get permission to build houses, but Reading Council say that most of this 'reserved land' should be kept green and not used for housing.

Reading Council cannot force our landlord to let the land as allotments. But it seems that the Council believe that if building is forbidden the Charity will decide to allow people to use the green land, so getting some income from the land, at least for the next 15 years, when the next plan is made.

An independent inspector will decide this autumn. What he says will hold until 2026. Please use your chance to say what you think about these bits of land before the beginning of April. Comment to:

LDF Planning Team,
Planning Department,
Civic Centre,
Reading, RG1 7AE

Your committee will write following up their comments written over the last decade, but individual comments carry more weight. Here are the conditions the council propose for building 11-17 houses on site SA8a

Development should:

Mitigate significant impacts on, and provide management of, important biodiversity assets on land adjacent to the proposed development site including badger habitats;

Retain woodland and important trees covered by Tree Preservation Order;

Retain hedges to existing Kentwood Hill frontage of the site;

Take account of potential archaeological significance;

Maintain important views through the site to the Thames escarpment and Chilterns from the adjoining playing fields;

Transport assessment required and adequate footway / cycleway provision to be provided linking in to existing routes.

You may also want to note that the council still propose 11-17 houses can be fitted onto this smaller piece of land.

For Sale

Willow Sticks at least 8 feet long and 3/4 inch diameter – 30p per stick.

Black ground cover mesh for weed control, 2 meters wide – 110p per metre

Bird netting, 3/4 inch mesh, 8 metres wide – 215p per metre.

Both the mesh and the net can be seen on site on various plots.

Contact William Macphee 29 Armour Rd. 0118 9414873 w.s.g.macphee@hotmail.com

Farm Yard Manure

Mrs Drayton 9572379, and Tim Metcalfe 9428001 deliver well-rotted muck (check price when you phone.)

Vegetable Plants

White Tower nursery, Aldermaston 9712123 will have an excellent selection of plants in season.



Bind Weed

Convolvulus arvensis is a beguilingly attractive plant, with pink, white or candystriped bell flowers which have a light almond fragrance in the sun, and whose nectar attracts a large number of insect species.

The plant is exquisitely engineered to cope with the pressures of cultivation. Field bindweed has a range of reproduction and regeneration techniques to meet every possible contingency. Each plant produces about 600 seeds, some of which germinate in the summer and some in the autumn. Or, if buried deeply enough, at any time over the succeeding 40 years.

It extends horizontally by means of underground stems. It may spread over 30 square yards in a single season, the vertical roots may go down more than 18 feet. Cutting the roots with a hoe temporarily weakens the plant, but also promotes new shoots. Within a few seconds a milky latex oozes out of the wound, and clots over the cut. Within days dormant shoot-buds close to the wound have begun to swell and form new roots and leaf stems. This happens with even the tiniest fragment of any part of the plant. Above ground, the tip of the twinning stem hunts for light, curling round any vertical objects. If the twinning stems are partially buried, they take root. If they are repeatedly cut off the plant compensates by taking on a bushy form.

(Abridged from "Weeds" by Richard Mabey)