



Trevor Haynes working on his bean trench

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: Michael Geater
 0776 8902634 or 0118 9420767

Vandalism

POLICE for EVERY incident: call 101
Call 999 for trouble in progress

The landlord's agent,
 Stephanie Keighley,
 can be contacted on 0789 979 8335

For Sale:

Ground cover mesh (shades out weeds, but permeable to water)
 Bird Netting
 Firewood logs
 Kindling sticks

941 4873

William Macphee: 29 Armour Rd.
 w.s.g.macphee@hotmail.co.uk

Oliver Jenks

After 19 years, Oliver is stepping down from the role of Clerk to the Trustees. During this time Oliver has been the primary contact with the land lord for both the plot-holders and the committee.

Stephanie Keighley is quickly learning the intricacies of role of 'The Clerk to the Trustees'. She has been appointed as Oliver Jenks' successor- if you meet her on site please introduce yourself and say hello.



Stephanie Keighley

RESCUE

This is Reading's annual clear up event. It is on **Friday 9th** and **Sat 10th March** this year. Note, unlike last year, there is no depositing on Sunday.

We will not have a skip, but our rubbish/recycling **will be collected** from the main car park during the weekend.

Please:

- Collect allotment stuff and take it to the car park on Friday or before 4.00pm on Saturday.
- Sort piles of metals/wood and general rubbish, dangerous waste etc.

Follow the notices exactly.

- No GREEN (compost-able) WASTE or stones/hard-core.
- Ensure everything is in manageable size bits so that it can be loaded into the collecting vehicles.
- NO PARKING in the car park at all Sat 10th March or Sunday 11th March
- Be alert and deter strangers from dumping any stuff.
- Help keep the car park tidy.

It is Dis

Plot Holders Committee 2011/2012

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

Site Inspections

The Trustees carry out regular H&S inspections. They also check the state of cultivation of plots to confirm that the conditions of the lease are being met. There will be an inspection in a few weeks; does your plot pass muster?

Ensure you have:

- No obstacles, or sharp bits of metal or steep changes of level lurking for someone to trip or fall on.
- Covered all water butts and troughs.
- Only kept stuff you will use!

Note the requirement that there is a path all round whole plots. There has been some improvement in the past couple of years, but there remain areas with no paths or overgrown paths. Even if it was like it when you took over the plot, you need to do something about it. Please make a start.

Fund Raising

We will have a stall at the Friends of Royal Berkshire Hospital show on **Saturday 9th June** in the Victoria Recreation Ground. We need plants, flowers and herbs to sell. This will be our only such fund-raising occasion this year. We (Jenny) can sell almost anything. The show attracts crowds, our stall is well known and we have loyal customers. Please note the date and think of us when you sow seeds/pot things on, or take cuttings.

Committee News

We have allocated the resources to fix the notice-boards. They were waiting for the weather to improve. We trust normal communications will be resumed soon.

There will be an on site meeting with the new police team soon. Please let Jenny know of any issues you want raised or if you would like to attend. We are aiming for mid March.

Many thanks to the 37 folk who have said they are happy to receive dig it electronically. It will offset the rise in printing costs and save the delivery band some time. However please ask if you would like to go back to paper.

Water will be turned on again in mid March after some repairs to taps have been completed. Please look out for drips and leaks; report any problems immediately. It is much better to get lots of messages than none.

Keep helping yourself to the wood chips. They are very useful for mopping up slippery paths.

Waiting List

All plots are let, except one accessible plot. Please pass on this news if you know someone who wants it.



There are 13 people waiting for a plot and 3 existing plot holders who have requested some more land and many others who want plots but have

not registered. Please tell anyone who asks to put their name down for either a normal (half) plot or a KOG (accessible) plot.

Look After Your Soil

Improve the condition of your soil with compost. Here are some ideas:

Compost as much green stuff as you can; most weeds make good compost. A heap in the corner of your plot will compost eventually. A home made, or a bought container will look neater, work faster and take less space.

Manure is good if you cannot make enough compost. Mrs Drayton 9572379, and Tim Metcalffe 9428001 deliver well-rotted muck (check price when you phone).

Several local stables let you bag up some muck and take it away for free, but it may take some time to rot down.

Look out for the free bags of pigeon litter left near the main notice board occasionally. Put this on your compost heap, it is far too 'rich' to go on the soil immediately.

Make quick compost by mixing torn newspaper and thin card with an equal volume of lawn mowings in a plastic bag. Water the contents with urine as an activator, seal the top of the bag and leave in a sunny place. In warm weather, the contents will be ready in 3-4 weeks.

Discounts

Members of the Horticultural Society can get a discount from **Collins** in Pangbourne, show your membership card. **White Tower Nursery** at Aldermaston will have an excellent selection of veg plants at the appropriate time. They give a discount if you are a member of Tilehurst Allotments Society. Phone 9712123 to check availability and prices.

Allotments Saved From Development

This eye-catching headline in 'Get Reading' gave the latest news about proposals to build on the 'reserved land'. Read this clear article on our website or the notice boards, or contact us (e-mail is best) to get a copy of the council's explanatory papers.

What's happening now? The Planning Inspector told Reading Council that site SA8a (the builders yard) should retain its current status (neither designated for building nor protected, but shown white on planning maps) until the future of all the charity land off Kentwood Hill has been agreed. Only the Council may modify the Sites and Detailed Policies Document (SDPD). They must consult about changes first. So there is formal consultation (ending on Tuesday 10 April) on the few modifications only.

Tilehurst Allotments Society supports the inspectors recommendations. So please:

- Contact the Local Development Framework team to say you agree with the proposed changes to the SDPD at: Planning LDF Team, Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 7AE or email LDF@reading.gov.uk
- Think about how all the land should be used. Pass on your ideas to the committee.



Police Non-emergency No.

101 is the number to call when you want to contact your local police - when it's less urgent than a 999 call. **101** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response.

Please report all crimes using this easy to remember phone number, and keep the crime reference (URN) number. For crimes in progress use 999 as usual.

Vegetable Growing for Beginners
Free talk at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Victoria Road 3 March. Organised by Tilehurst Horticultural Society. Everybody welcome.