

Sue and Dave Bailey  
 with Grandson James  
 make a start on  
 their new plot



## Emergency Contacts

### Water

Polsted Rd supply: William Macphee  
 29 Armour Road 0118 9414873

Armour Hill supply: Rod Mills  
 5 Wendover Way 0778 9765652

Bees Martin Moore 0772 9620286

### 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  
 Email [tplc@talktalk.net](mailto:tplc@talktalk.net)

Please give Jenny the URN number  
 for any site crime you report.

Inform Stephanie of any wind  
 damage to trees on site.

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## AGM

Discussion at the AGM focussed on two main issues, weedy plots, and dumping. Regarding the weedy plots, members urged the Trustees to adopt a more systematic approach to monitoring plots and following up issues. There are signs that this is happening so please make sure to let Stephanie know if there are reasons why you cannot keep your plot up to scratch.

The discussion about dumping reminded plot-holders that there are NO dumping areas. Everyone is responsible for their own waste. It has been very disappointing to see that this message still has not got through; green waste from plots was again found at the side of the car park early in November. We need all the car-park space. The rotting green waste makes the car-park smaller. Please pass on this reminder.

## Chairman's Chat

We had a warm summer, but for two weeks in August temperatures dropped at night to have us seeking the central heating switch. September came and summer came back! My strawberries decided to have a second go at flowering and fruiting.

Recently we've had some boundary disputes between plot holders. If you're unsure of your boundary lines please contact Stephanie Keighley the landlord's agent who will arbitrate.

Autumn's a great time for clearing your plot, adding muck and compost, and preparing the land for next year. It makes economic sense to compost your own green waste, rather than dumping it elsewhere on site.

I've been eating Xmas cake since October, so I guess it's time to wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Richard Buckingham

## Plot Holders Committee 2014/2015

Chair	Richard Buckingham	PC13	07738 003057			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169			
Treasurer	Karen Fidler	PB12				
Committee	William Macphee	PC2	Kate Jones	AB9a	Mary Bartlett	AB7a
	Colin Robinson	AA20	David Griffiths	PB10	Lucy Twivey	kogG2



## Winter Reminders

**A**ll gates, both pedestrian and vehicle, will be locked from sundown on Christmas Eve, until sundown on Christmas Day. Don't forget to pick your sprouts before.

**W**ater will be turned off from 1<sup>st</sup> December until 1<sup>st</sup> March. Please do not turn it on again, even for a short time. This is to avoid burst pipes. The water system is not frost proof.

**R**BC will collect Christmas trees from the car-park (see press for dates) and return the chippings to use on paths, as mulch, or even to add to your compost. Help yourself to the pile of chips.

## Committee News

It was sad to say goodbye to Chapel Hill friends in September as we wished them well for the future. Michael Geater had looked after the site for many years. Our new committee has no representatives from this site, but we do have two new faces with fresh ideas and lots of energy. Thank you Mary and Lucie for volunteering

**T**he new committee will be considering innovations, have a chat and pass on your ideas to a committee member. The next meeting will be early in February.

**T**he committee will keep a watchful eye on activities on the reserved land. No one is allowed to extend the builder's yard, no trees should be felled, and waste should be disposed of properly. Whilst it is difficult to monitor such activity, the Society wants to help the Charity follow RBC's planning requirements.

## Winter Project Ideas

**N**umber your plot. There are still too many plots without a plot number.

**I**mprove paths and cull some brambles. There should be a clear path all round every full size plot.

**M**ake a compost bin. Don't cart your weeds away, compost them on your plot.

## THA Summer Show Improve Your Soil

**C**ongratulations to plot-holder Ian Duddle on winning The V. Nash Memorial Cup for Photography with the above picture "Common Blue". Ian says it was a chance photo while on a walk in Basildon Park on a warm, bright day this July.

**D**espite several weeks of having to weed one handed, plot-holder Ross Drean won the RHS Banksian Medal for his onions. Congratulation Ross.

**S**ee the excellent Tilehurst Horticultural Association website ([tilehurstha.org.uk](http://tilehurstha.org.uk)) for information about their winter talks program. Would you like to join the team entering the 2015 Newbury Show? It was fun last year and there is room for improvement.

## Waiting List

**T**he queue moved fast, Some who inquired in the summer have already got a plot. Currently there are about 10 people waiting and 3 vacant plots to be let soon.

**W**hilst all newcomers have the Society folder of handy hints and information there is no substitute for a friendly chat. Please make everyone feel at home and welcome. Tell them that no one expects a "Ground Force" miracle. They can garden however they want, but suggest they take it steady, enjoy their hobby and keep at it even through iffy winter weather and family distractions.

## Discounts

[www.vegetableseeds.net](http://www.vegetableseeds.net) code AD486

White Tower Nursery, Aldermaston  
Collins, Pangbourne

**M**anure improves both heavy clay and fast-draining soil. Some plots on our site are clay, others are fast draining gravel. 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. Ask if you only want a half load, that's about 35 reasonable barrow loads.

**W**e have also been contacted by Andy Smith who says "I have a pile of horse manure well rotted and I have an on going supply" Andy can deliver at weekends and charges £75 per transit tipper load which is about 1.75 tons, Andy can be contacted at [andysmith2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andysmith2003@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 07967221764

**I**f you have transport you can collect mixed straw and horse manure from many stables.

**Y**our compost heap is a valuable resource. You can add nutrients and speed up the composting process using the pigeon litter available on site.

**S**ome people use green manure, ask Ian and Julia about it (plot AA11).

**M**anure, compost and green manure all improve soil texture, feed hungry crops and raise the soil level on your plot. Happy digging!

## Site Safety

**A**ll water-containers should be covered to prevent toddlers falling in. The plot-holder is responsible for this, however, the Trustees have said that they will be responsible for communal water troughs.



Brogan Foad and a bee on Lucie Twivey's plot