

Amy PC12b



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 tpic@talktalk.net

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

Inform Stephanie of any wind
 damage to trees on site.

General Tenants meeting

The tenants meeting at the beginning of April was attended by 6 committee members and 9 other tenants. This year the event was combined with a seedling/plant swap making a useful and pleasant social occasion.

There was a lively discussion on what being a good allotment neighbour means. In summary, respect other people's plots and property; talk to nearby plot-holders to agree about things like path maintenance, and swap contact details for emergency use. (Phone, Facebook, Email, whatever best suits you both.)

We agreed to help Peter with the grass-cutting chore by having notices asking for areas to be kept clear of cars on cutting days.

Tenants should contact the landlord directly in case of difficulty. Your Society does not act as an intermediary, however, it is in a better place to help if kept in the picture.

June Fete

The Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital Show is on **Saturday 6th June** at the **Victoria Recreation Ground**.

We will have a stall at this popular all-day family event with lots to do for all ages. Please help our main fundraising effort. The main thing that decides how much cash we raise is how much we have to sell. Every plot holder should be able to give us something. Please drop off any donations (plants or produce) at our stall on the Recreation Ground any time from **10.00 am on the day**, or to Jenny's plot (PD5b) before the event.

Can you help? We will also need helpers for an hour or two during the day to do different jobs. Tell Jenny what you can manage asap; many hands make light work.

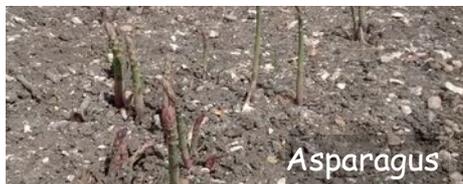


Rosemary

Plot Holders on TAS Committee 2014/2015

Chair	Richard Buckingham	PC13	07738 003057			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	PD5b	9425169			
Treasurer	Karen Fidler	PB12				
Committee	William Macphee	PC2	Mary Bartlett	AB7a		
	Colin Robinson	AA20	David Griffiths	PB10	Lucie Twivey	kogG2

Tilehurst



Asparagus

Site Thefts

It is sad to note that some things go missing, probably not just having suffered in the gales, but having been taken without the owners OK. Even 8ft fence posts have gone in less than 24hrs. Thieving is not acceptable and must be eliminated. Please:

Keeep any property that appears on your plot safe and try to re-unite it with the owner.

Mark everything so you can reclaim it and prove ownership

Always tell the police about incidents including thefts from plots. Pass on any information about crime reports to Jenny or a committee member.

Summer Reminders

Speed Limit 5mph on site and in Polsted Road.

Children are welcome, but for safety they must stay on the family plot and not take anything even if it looks like rubbish. The site and tracks are not a playground.

Top IT Tip

Do you want to use Facebook but don't know how? Any other IT problems?

Jenny recommends the brilliant Reading and Berkshire age uk silver surfer tutorial scheme. £35 for ten 1 hour tutorials on a Wednesday morning at the Central Library on any aspect of IT. Contact Silver Surfers Coordinator on 0118 9594242 or email silversurfer@ageukberkshire



Dave Newnham PD4

Looking Good

The site is in good shape; there are some wild patches that need attention, but generally paths are in good nick and plots are being used well. The Trustees recent site inspection revealed no major safety hazards. We are told a few tenants will receive 'weedy' letters saying that their plot needs attention. If you get one, or you think you might get one, please let Stephanie know of any extenuating circumstances e.g. family priorities or health issues.

Recent gales have caused problems. Stuff has blown across several plots. If anything gets blown onto your plot (e.g. watering cans, or compost bins) please ask around or put a notice on one of the boards to try to re-unite it with its owner.

With more half size plots many are puzzling how best to store stuff. Sheds are expensive, but you can improvise. An old bath upside-down can keep things out of harms way; pallets can be assembled to contain other stuff as well as compost.

Waiting List

How hard can it be? There are empty plots and people who want plots.

Your committee think it is best to minimise deterioration and nuisance by leaving plots vacant for only a short time and re-letting them promptly. This ideal can be surprisingly difficult to achieve when those at the top of the waiting list mysteriously disappear.

People waiting for plots can help by keeping Stephanie informed of any changes to their circumstances, responding to invitations to view, and making every effort to attend when invited.

As DigIt goes to press, there are a few vacant plots and seven people waiting.

Plants

White Tower Nursery at Aldermaston, 0118 9712123, has an enormous selection of vegetable plants, cabbages, tomatoes, squash, there's no space to list them all. Mention Tilehurst Allotments to get a discount. I bought a selection of brassicas last week and chatting to Chrissy, she mentioned that at the end of May they will have sweet potato, oca (also called New Zealand yam) and cucamelons (grape sized melons tasting like lime and cucumber) So, if you want to try growing and eating something completely different...

Notice Boards



Chairman's Chat

Spring has duly sprung, but there's still some cold and frosty nights about which can catch out the early unprotected plants. I've finally got my new potatoes and salad potatoes in, luckily followed by some welcome rain. Fruit bushes and strawberries are coming along nicely too. There have been some enquiries about second hand sheds for new tenants, so if anyone has one they don't need please let us know. Internet sites such as Free Cycle and Gum Tree are also good sources for free stuff. It's also worth being a member of Tilehurst Horticultural Society as they carry notices of items which are free or for sale. Talking about the Internet, don't forget we have a Facebook page with a few members on it and more are welcome. See our top IT tip in this DigIt.

Mary Bartlett has been appointed as our Membership Secretary to help ensure all our records are up to date and we are in contact with all plot holders.

Finally, after 10 years or so on the Committee, including the last 3 as Chairman, I have decided not to stand for election at this year's AGM in September. This gives time for budding Committee members and candidates for chair person to consider standing for election.

Richard Buckingham



Jen Newnham PD4