



David Williams

David moved to the site from Chapel Hill, he misses the friendships of a small site with only seven plots, but is pleased with the productivity of his 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 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.

AGM 7:30pm Thursday
24th September
Tilehurst Village Hall

All plot-holders and all on the waiting list are very welcome at our AGM.

Tilehurst

Chairman's report

In June we still had a finger hovering over the central heating button. By mid July the grass was brown and allotments were gasping for water!



The Hospital Fete at the Victoria Recreation Ground proved a great success raising a record amount of £314.30 for TAS funds. Green letter boxes have been added to both notice boards for plot holders to post queries to the committee, if not sent by email.

In July we visited Windsor Rose Show and horticultural show. They were lamenting the lack of competition in many of the vegetable classes. It's important to support our local shows, in particular the

Tilehurst Horticultural Association, to ensure they continue.

Our AGM is on 24 September. I'm standing down from the committee after 11 years including the last 3 as Chairman. Meanwhile the committee has been strengthened with new people joining in the last year: Mary Bartlett, Lucie Twivey, Dave and Jen Newnham. More will be most welcome.

I'd like to record my thanks to my fellow committee members who have contributed so much to TAS over the years.

Richard Buckingham

Your TAS committee are grateful to Richard for stepping up and taking on the chairmanship after the untimely death of John Butt in Spring 2012. Richard has been a reliable stalwart through some tricky times.

Outgoing Plot Holders Committee 2014/2015

Note: All the committee positions are up for election every year. We need nominations, there will be a chance to step forward during the interval.

Chair	Richard Buckingham	PD13	07738 003057		
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169		
Treasurer	Karen Fidler	PB12			Dave and Jen
Committee	William Macphee	PC2	David Griffiths	PB10	Newnham PD4b
	Colin Robinson	AA20	Mary Bartlett	AB7a	Lucie Twivey kogG2



Yellow
Plums

TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY					
Income and expenditure for year end 30 Jun 2015					
INCOME	Year end 30 Jun 15	Year end 30 Jun 14	EXPENDITURE	Year end 30 Jun 15	Year end 30 Jun 14
FRBH show	£334.30	£212.50	Site Maintenance	£20.78	£0.00
TPLC grants	£60.00	£60.00	AGM Admin	£24.00	£21.60
Raffles	£44.00	£42.00	Hall Hire	£40.00	£40.00
Other	£12.50	£12.00	Admin - Folder Inserts	£32.94	£27.72
			Dig It copying	£96.80	£133.70
			Website Costs	£43.15	£49.67
			Stall hire FRBH Show	£20.00	£20.00
			Site improvements	£59.99	
			Miscellaneous	£0.00	£0.00
Bank interest	£105.88	£106.00			
TOTAL	£556.68	£432.50		£337.66	£292.69

	Year end 30/06/15	Year end 30/06/2014
Balance of income over expenditure	£219.02	£139.81

Net Income/Expenditure since June 1999 to date

B/F	£10,188.75
Net Income in year to 30 June 2015	£219.02
C/F	<u>£10,407.77</u>

Balances on 30 June 2015

Total in HSBC accounts (current and moneymanager)	£1,290.49
Bond	£9,000.00
	<u>£10,290.49</u>
Petty Cash	£20.00
Investment- TVFM	£1.00
Accrued Interest Income	£85.52
Prepayments	£10.76
Accrued expenses	£0.00
Total	<u><u>£10,407.77</u></u>

Join the Committee

The whole committee is up for election every year at the AGM. The committee generally meet for about 90 minutes every two months. Your Society needs help and fresh energy to look after the interests of our members and promote allotment gardening locally. Please lend a hand. There are plenty of opportunities to help make things happen.

Rent

The landlord's agent, Stephanie, will be on site to collect rent from 9.30 to 10.30 on Saturday 26th September.

	Due by Tues 29 th Sept 2015	Last year
Full plot (reduced)	£80 (£60)	£72 (£53)
Half plot (reduced)	£50 (£40)	£45 (£36)
KOG raised bed (no reduction)	£10	£10

Treasurer's Report

The Society earned £219.02 in the year to 30th June 2015 which is an increase of £79.21 from last year. The stall at the Tilehurst Show had a great selection to sell this year and there was good weather on the day; as a result we made £334.30 (an increase of 57% from last year.) Thank you everyone who donated, helped on the stall or came along and purchased something. We have invested in a new gazebo this year, as well as made repairs to the noticeboards. Our photocopying costs for Dig It have decreased this year as we printed an extra special edition in the year to 30th June 2014.

Karen Fidler Treasurer

Our scrutineer Julia Cottee reviewed the accounts and agrees that they present a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Tilehurst Allotment Society for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Tilehurst Allotments Society

Sixteenth Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 24th September 2015 7.30 - 9.00pm
(you can pay your rent 7.00-7.30pm and in the interval)

Agenda

1. Minutes of last years AGM (24.09.14)
2. Chairman's remarks
3. Treasurer's report
4. Report from the Charity
including answers to written questions
submitted by 17th September
5. Town meal (Sat 3rd Oct at Forbury Gardens)
INTERVAL
6. Site issues and future plans
(including patch rep proposals)
Discussion in small groups
7. Elections of TAS Officers and
Committee (2015-16)
8. ANNUAL RAFFLE and
Mary's FREE plot holder DRAW



Blackberries

TAS Past and Future Steps on the way

Your committee has been thinking about what the future holds for our allotment site and incidentally our society. We recall the achievements over 16 years and that Chapel Hill site was closed last year. As predicted this land is returning to nature. What will happen to the one remaining site? Might it become closed and neglected like the rest of the Charities lands?

Sixteen years ago the main site was in a sorry state. The land had been badly managed, there were only two taps, tracks and paths were untended and parking places were rare. The Charity had closed the waiting list and re-located tenants from Kentwood Hill to the rest of the site in preparation for development.

The Tilehurst Allotments Society was formed and has made many improvements over the years. We helped in lots of ways; maintaining a waiting list, encouraging better husbandry, working on site improvements and doing routine administration tasks. Lots of things improved.

Making a Stronger Community

The committee is working to strengthen our community. We want to improve communication (from plot-holders to the committee and among plot-holders). We want to help people to get to know their neighbours better. When social aspects get better we think visiting the allotment will be more fun, the Society will be stronger and more able to tackle problems and ward off threats.

We have recently made some small improvements, replacing a broken notice board and installing site mailboxes near both notice boards. We have started on some bigger ones. Now we ask you to think about having a patch system to help people get to know their plot neighbours, like Chapel Hill where 7 plot-holders got to know each other well. This will help the committee hear of issues promptly. The map shows the patches we propose. There are roughly 9 plots to a patch. Some patches are bigger than others because they have mostly full size (300m²) plots not half size. We hope each patch will have one or two reps who make sure messages get to the committee. It is easier to get to know a handful of neighbours than trying to know lots. Perhaps some informal social activities will happen in

patches like fixing to come at the same time, sharing tea breaks, growing stuff and watering for each other. But the priority is to pass on news, ideas, concerns and triumphs.

The patch reps would not come to committee meetings unless they want to. They would pass on messages and questions. Think about it; is it worth a trial? At the AGM after the interval, when most formal business is finished, we will move to tables to talk in small groups about this and other ideas.

Patches will arrange who will be their representatives and let the secretary know. We think reps need to be reasonably sociable, fair, ready to pass on messages reliably and to encourage beginners.

There are lots of people who help our society, fewer than half of them serve on the committee many do lots of different jobs to keep the wheels turning. There are some people we don't know about. We all owe all the helpers a vote of thanks. Given all this goodwill we hope there will be enough who might find being a representative just the kind of role they want to try. Ways of communicating will depend on what suits the rep.

What can you do?

- Look at the notice boards for new information.
- Think about the issues and suggestions.
- If a neighbour is around when you are at the plot make time to talk about how things might work.
- Swap ideas at the AGM.

Everyone needs to think about the future and how to ensure another 16 successful years for our site.



Jasper sampling the first runner bean

Carine, Tim and Jasper

So we took over plot PC4A at the end of October 2014.

At the time we were thrilled, enthusiastic and rather ignorant, having never grown anything before. We set out with a realistic plan of doing a little in the first year and take on a little more each year. As we are a young family with a one year old baby, it is often challenging to find time. I do the sowing and planting and Tim does the hard work of turning over the soil and creating paths.

So far it has worked well and

throughout the spring and summer, I have tried to spend as much time down the plot as I can. It's been wonderful spending time outside, growing our own vegetables.

Our plot has so far given us courgettes, dwarf beans, runner beans, garlic, onions and some potatoes even though we planted them the wrong way round and had to dig them all out! We are thoroughly enjoying the experience, everyone we have met has been friendly and provided us with some much needed advice.

We hope to meet more of the other plot holders in the future.

It's Your Society

Our membership Secretary, Mary, is working to keep our membership records up to date. She needs your contact information, (plot-number, address, post code, phone and email [optional]) You can email your details to tilehurstallotments@hotmail.com or mail Mary Bartlett, membership secretary, 9 Delaney Close RG30 4UY or drop a note in one of the site mail boxes. She will put all updated names into a free draw at the AGM. Speak to Mary or any committee member if you need help.

[Don't assume she knows about you. My details were wrong even though they have been on DigIt since 1999! Ed.]

When you tidy up please check your plot number is visible and hasn't faded. As an inducement the lucky plot number draw prize at the AGM will be doubled, not one, but two bottles of wine. That is a double prize if you have given Mary your details and your plot number is visible on your plot on Monday 21st September.

Waiting List

The waiting list should move fast in September and October. If you are on the waiting list, please help speed the process: contact Stephanie if things have changed so that you would not take up a plot offer if you got one. Tell her how best to contact you to arrange a site visit.

The Trustees have a policy about taking on a weedy plot. When tenants take on a badly maintained plot and make good progress with it in the first year, the second year is rent free. Don't forget to remind Stephanie if this applies to you!

The Charity kindly posted this Dig It along with your rent letter. Please pay rent promptly; or tell Stephanie if you are giving up, or have particular problems. We don't want land waiting to be cultivated. We hope all vacated plots will be re-let by the end of October so that autumn preparation work can be started.

Next Year's Fete

Carolyn suggests collecting unusual containers which can be planted with herbs for sale at the Fete. Apparently they sell like hot cakes. She also suggests having a seed swap earlier in the year so that we can organise plant raising for the fete. If you have anything to offer, email tilehurstallotments@hotmail.com or drop a note in one of the site mail boxes.



Libby's
carrots

Seasonal Reminders

Watch out for wasps, take care and look out for their nests in the dry areas near the bottom of a compost heap.

Keep on sowing. Its not too late to sow pak choi and lettuces such as valor. Then get garlic, onion and shallots in. Sow green manure on any empty patches.

Autumn is a good time to start winter digging. Adding compost or manure pays dividends. Plot-holders have used two regular suppliers: Mrs Dayton (9572379) and Tim Metcalfe (9428001) who both supply well rotted manure. Also look out for bags of pigeon litter delivered to the main site by a neighbour (usually in old smokeless fuel bags on the track opposite the notice-board). First come first served, help yourself, use it as a compost activator mixed with weeds in your compost heap. Collect free stable manure from one of the local stables, take a bag and a shovel.

Be considerate with autumn bonfires. Only burn dry stuff that is no good for composting. If you have rubbish you should either take it home, or to the tip, or keep it until the RESCUE clean up in March.



Mick
McKenzie
behind
granddaughters
Sophie and
Isabelle's
Sunflowers

Reading Town Meal

Join the celebration of home grown food.

A huge harvest of home grown goodies will be cooked up when the 'Town Meal' returns to Forbury Gardens Reading on Saturday 3rd October. This unique celebration of local sustainable food will serve over 1,000 people with a lunch made from the fresh ingredients grown by gardeners, allotment holders and local food producers.

Local gardeners are being asked to donate a little of what's growing in their vegetable plots or allotments to make the Reading Town Meal happen. Whether you can spare big boxes or a small bunch, it's a great feeling to know that your produce is part of a delicious meal being enjoyed at the Town Meal.

Organisers are asking growers to let them know now what they plan to donate – 'veg pledges' can be made at the Town Meal website www.readingtowntownmeal.org.uk or by emailing growers@readingtowntownmeal.org.uk All those pledging before 20 September will be entered in a special prize draw for the chance to win either a meal for two or a relaxing salon treatment, donated by Reading College.

In the run up to the day, volunteers will be gathering in the fruit and vegetables contributed by growers across the town from their window sills, gardens and allotments, and then delivering the harvest to Reading College. There, the College's catering students will be ready to turn the town's harvest into a three course menu and then serve it to the public to enjoy in beautiful Forbury Gardens in Reading town centre.

To accompany the meal, there's a packed programme of live music, plenty of activities for all the family, plus a market place of community groups and local produce stalls to browse. Fun competitions include 'Weird and Wonderful Veg' for strange shaped or sized, ugly or beautiful fruit or vegetables. And free workshop sessions will run throughout the afternoon, so whether you want to share ideas on growing winter vegetables or find out how to making your own mead, here's your chance to get some top tips.

Visit www.readingtowntownmeal.org.uk to find out more and get involved!