



Ira and Jonathan with Sierra(5) and Melissa(2)

### 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

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

**Inform Stephanie of any wind**  
 damage to trees on site.



Watering the kukuruisca (sweet corn)

8.00 am and 5.30 pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May? Tell Jenny if you can manage something asap, many hands make light work, there is lots to do.

### Looking Good

The site is in good shape. There are some unkempt patches, but generally people are keeping paths in good nick and using land well. The Trustees postponed their site inspection until Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. They generally spend an hour touring the site so they only see a small sample. It is pot-luck what gets checked. If you have concerns please pass them on, either direct to Stephanie, or tell us. If there are special circumstances e.g. family priorities or health matters causing temporary issues and reasons why your plot is not up to scratch please let Stephanie know (contact details in the box above). It's a bit like speed cameras; best to do the right thing rather than just trusting to luck.

Peter is cutting the grass on the main tracks again this year. Thank you to the land-lord for covering the cost of this mowing.

# It's a Dis

### Hospital Fete

The Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital Show is on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** at the **Victoria Recreation Ground from 10.30am to 4.30pm**. This is a popular all-day family event with attractions for all ages. It marks the real start of summer, it is a chance to meet friends, chat and catch some bargains.

**We** will have a stall. It is our main fund raising effort. Last year we made £340, that was exceptional. Our target this year is £250. So we need lots of stuff to sell. Every plot holder should be able to give us something; plants, herbs, produce, flowers and sundries are all welcome. Rhubarb sells well. Please drop off any donations at our stall on the Recreation Ground any time after 9.00 am on the day, or to Jenny's plot (PD5b) before the event.

**We** want lots of customers too. Please tell friends and family about our stall. Come along, introduce yourself, have a chat and pick up a bargain.

**H**elpers also are welcome. Can you spare an hour any time between

### Plot Holders Committee 2015/2016

Chair	David Griffiths	PB10	9421141			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	PD5b	9425169			
Treasurer	Karen Fidler	PB12				
Committee	William Macphee	PC2	Colin Robinson	AA20	Mary Bartlett	AB7a



## Summer Reminders

There is a speed limit of 5mph both on site and in Polsted Road. Please take great care, young children play in the road, and the issue of fault is almost irrelevant after an accident.

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

This is one of the busiest times of the allotment year. You can almost see stuff growing. Especially weeds! Keep on hoeing. It takes maybe 30 minutes to run a hoe through the entire allotment when you can just barely see the weed seedling. Leave it a few weeks and it will be a heavy days work.



Now is the time to plant, both seeds and young plants. Visit our stall at the fete on the Victoria Recreation Ground on 4<sup>th</sup> July to buy plants, or take a trip out to White Tower Nursery at Aldermaston (0118 9712123) where they sell an enormous selection of vegetable plants.

## Reading Town Meal

So far there have been three fantastic 'picnics in the park' publicising gardening and fresh food, celebrating the delicious fruit and veg that is grown in Reading. Tilehurst Allotments have always been a contributor of produce. The 2016 event depends on raising £3000 by 19<sup>th</sup> May by crowd funding. There are just a few days left now for a final push to meet the costs of hiring tents, etc.

## AGM

Unusual Veg Competition? Tasting preserves? Can we think of seasonal things to combine with the AGM this year on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September**. Please pass on your ideas. Could you grow something new for the event?

## Waiting List

Some plots have been left vacant for too long. Regrettably, lettings have not kept up with vacancies. Hopefully Stephanie will clear the backlog and keep on top of the task, but life happens. If you are waiting, please do all you can to help. Contact her and let her know that you are still keen to have a plot. Make sure she knows how best to contact you. On site letting events are usually at the weekend in the morning. Do your best to attend an invitation. Remember to tell her if you cannot make it. It may be months before you get another opportunity.

If you have a plot and know you will be vacating it, please tell Stephanie in good time. No one wants your good work to go to waste and land to deteriorate.



## General Tenants Meeting

The tenants meeting at the beginning of March was not well attended but those who came had a good chance to talk through some sticky issues and found it helpful. If you didn't come please tell us why. Would a time later in the year after the clocks have changed be better?

## Summer event

Do you want to have a summer get together on the site? Now is the time to plan it. Your committee think that small get-togethers are likely to be more successful than one for the whole site. If you want some suggestions or help please ask, but basically it is over to you.



## School Visit



Moorlands school club visited Dave's plot in February. The children took a keen interest in seeing how food grows; or rather where it will grow in the spring. They are returning in June to see what's changed. In the meantime they each planted a runner bean seed to take home.

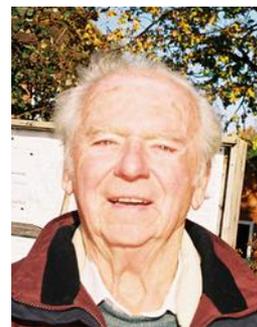


## Polsted Rd Potholes

Polsted road residents have asked if TAS can make a contribution towards the repair. The general meeting discussion was divided and a subsequent member survey showed that plot-holders do not have any clear opinion on the matter. Less than one sixth of the members replied to the question of whether the Society should make a one-off donation towards repair costs. The results showed 9 for and 9 against. The committee will decide when more information from the Polsted Road residents is to hand.

## Mervyn

Many of us knew or at least heard Mervyn, the "Whistler". He had an allotment for 60 years; he took on his plot in 1954! Mervyn was an expert gardener and a supportive member of both Tilehurst Allotments Society and Tilehurst Horticultural Society where he was the flower and pot plant judge from 1992 until 2010. We miss his hanging baskets which always made an excellent raffle prize at the summer fete.



At Mervyn's funeral, his family very kindly remembered us by asking that donations be made to these two gardening societies. Thanks to their generosity each society has nearly £200 to spend. Your committee have some ideas, but would like ideas from the membership. Please tell us how you think this money could be spent to improvement our society and remember Mervyn.