



Plot-holder
Ron Best

Emergency Contacts

The landlord's agent,
Stephanie Keighley,
can be contacted on 0789 979 8335
Email tplc@talktalk.net

Water and Trees: Inform Stephanie of any water issues and wind damage to trees on site.

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

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

Check our website or Facebook for details of plotholder discounts



Site Clean-up

Do you fancy a bit of litter picking? You know you do!

Reading RESCUE is back on the weekend 2nd to 4th March. Deborah has arranged for a rubbish collection from the Armour Hill end of the allotment site. Please take this opportunity to have a clear up around your plots and pick up any litter you see around the site. Place all rubbish in tied black bin bags on the pavement just clear of the gates. No unsafe or un-bagged rubbish will be taken so please be considerate.

This is a collection for litter and rubbish, not for weeds and green waste (compost it) or for stones and rubble (make a neat cairn.)

Plot-holders will work at their own risk. There is **NO Insurance Cover**.



Dig It

Jenny Cottee

It was with great sadness, and some trepidation that I, as chairman, accepted Jenny's resignation as our secretary earlier this year. Jenny's husband, Brian, had problems with deteriorating health and Jenny needed to spend much more time with him.

Jenny produced the first Tilehurst Allotment Society news letter in October 1998. She has organised work parties to clear up the site, and has added vitality to a moribund allotment letting process. She has been our proactive society secretary for 20 years.

Deborah Dadd has stepped up as acting secretary and your committee confirmed her in this role at the committee meeting on 5th Feb.

Sadly Brian died at the beginning of February. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jenny and her family.

Dave Griffiths (Chair)

Plot Holders Committee 2017/2018

Chair + Editor of Dig It	David Griffiths	PB10	9421141	
Secretary	Deborah Dadd	AA17	0787 944 8736	
Treasurer	Karen Fidler	PB12		
Membership Secretary	Mary Bartlett	AB7a		
Committee	William Macphee	PC3	Colin Robinson	AA20
	David Elton	PC5b	Phil Smith	AB8b
	Jenny Cottee	AA9	Carine Guenand	PC4a
	Chandra Burathoki & Peter Beard			Gurka Assn.

Employee Volunteering

Last year, two teams of employees from the Prudential volunteered to work on the allotment site under the company's Give and Gain Day scheme. They cleared the car park area, installed the bench in the car park, painted the KOG shed and raised beds as well as building a new sink and water cover in the KOG area. They enjoyed their days so much they're keen to come back this year too. Do you have any ideas of tasks that need undertaking? If so please let us know.



Broad Beans

Soil Conditioning

We would all like lovely light, fluffy soil like Pete has achieved in the picture above. To improve your soil, compost as much green stuff as you can. Weeds make excellent compost, especially when mixed with shredded wood or cardboard. Your weeds are a valuable resource to be used. The weeds which you put into a compost heap now, will be perfect for digging back into your soil this autumn.

Note: Compost heap is a posh name for a pile of weeds!

Seed Potatoes

If you have not already done so, now is a good time to start chitting your seed potatoes. Both Collins in Pangbourne and the Englefield nursery stock a large selection.

The ground is still too cold for most seeds, A good rule of thumb is to wait until you see new weed seeds popping up, that's weed seeds, not the dandelion or bind weed root that got missed in the digging!

KoG Plot Extension



Many thanks to Martyn Collins for undertaking the work to raise one of the KOG plots to make it more accessible for its new plot-holder. It will be painted shortly to tie in with the rest of the area

Summer Fete

TAS will be running a double sized stall at the Summer Fete run by League of Friends of Royal Berkshire Hospital on the Victoria recreation ground on Saturday 9th June. This event is our main fund-raising opportunity and we aim to raise over £300.

Can you help? In the next month or two please consider growing extra vegetable plants to sell on the day. Think of us if you're dividing up plants at home. We sell anything gardening related so keep hold of any excess planters or tools you have as these sell well too.

Nearer the time we'll also be keen to have any excess produce from you. We will need: Carrier bags and boxes for customers to carry their purchases away; Rhubarb (a great seller); Vegetable plants; Flower plants; Any excess garden tools you may have; Any excess seed packs you may have.

And we need volunteers to take a stint at manning the stall for an hour or two. Keep the date free and come along. Funds raised are used to produce Dig It, room hire and to allow us to do things like improving the KOG plots.



Rubarb

Plant & Veg. Swap

Starting in April, we will have a stall once a month (by the bench in the car park) where everyone has the opportunity to pass on any excess plants and hopefully pick up some that they would like to grow. As the growing season moves on this will also apply to excess vegetables. This could also be extended to seeds.

Dates for your Diaries.

Sunday 22 nd April	10am – 11am
Sunday 20 th May	10am – 11am
Sunday 24 th June	10am – 11am
Sunday 22 nd July	10am - 11am
Sunday 19 th August	10am – 11am
Sunday 23 rd Sept	10am – 11am

Wood Chips

Please feel free to continue helping yourself to the chippings in the car park. Reading Borough Council have a key and will replenish stocks so you're welcome to take some for home/garden use as well. Many thanks to the people who have been clearing up the boggy areas and path with the chippings too, you've saved many of us from slipping over I'm sure.



Brussel sprouts

Spring Get Together

We will have an informal get together on Thursday 12th April starting at 7:30 at the Tilehurst Village Hall on Crescent Road. There will be a fun, allotment focused team quiz and we'll be taking the opportunity to swap any excess seeds and seedlings we have. Please do join us with your spare plants and seeds. Feel free to bring any drinks you would like to consume other than the tea and coffee we'll be providing. All Plot-holders and their families are welcome.