



Linda Kiff weeding
broad beans

Emergency Contacts

Water
 Polsted Rd supply: Mark Digweed
 52 Armour Hill 0791 9166700
 Armour Hill supply: Rod Mills
 5 Wendover Way 0778 9765652
 Chapel Hill supply: Michael Geater
 0776 8902634 or 0118 9420767

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

Diary Dates

Tilehurst Horticultural Society show is on **Saturday 4th August.**
Our AGM will be on Thursday 27th September 2012

It is Dis

Help Wanted

The Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital Show will on **Saturday 9th June** at the **Victoria Recreation Ground.** Your society will have a stall at this popular all-day family event with lots to do for all ages. Please help us reach the modest target of £150 at this, our only fund-raising event this year.

We sell **any plants** that novice or experienced gardeners would like. There will be sections for herbs, vegetable and flower plants, and probably a children's section. Also, our produce too is always popular; so please bring us **rhubarb, beans** or what ever you have. Drop off any **donations** at our stall on the Recreation ground any time from **10.00am on the day,** or to **85 Westwood Rd** before the event.

The stall will need helpers all day so please tell Jenny what you can manage, she will be sorting the rota immediately after the bank holidays.

Bees

The bees are working now the warm weather has arrived, all will benefit from the pollination and good yields that bees bring. See contact number above.

Rubbish

All households have domestic rubbish collections, the allotment site does not. Please take your rubbish home and use the on-site land-fill areas for **stones and green stuff only.**

Plants and Seeds

Collins in Pangbourne give members of the Horticultural Society a discount. Show your membership card.

White Tower Nursery at Aldermaston has an excellent selection of veg plants. It's a bit of a trek while the railway bridge on the Aldermaston road is closed, but worth it! They give a discount to members of Tilehurst Allotments Society. Phone 9712123 to check availability and prices.

Plot Holders Committee						
2011/2012						
Chair	Richard Buckingham	PD13	07738 003057			
Secretary	Jenny Cottee	AA8	9425169			
Treasurer	Ken Phillips	AB14				
Committee	William Macphee	PC2	Kate Jones	AB9a	Mick Geater	CH
	Colin Robinson	AA20	David Griffiths	PB10	Karen Fidler	PB12



Committee News

The committee have decided that Richard Buckingham will stand in as chair until our AGM.

The Trustees have taken on responsibility for grass cutting on the main tracks on the Polsted road site. This makes our financial position more secure. After asking for tenders the Trustees decided that Peter Andrews will be doing the work for two seasons. Many thanks to Peter and the Charity for sorting this out. Please help by not throwing stones on the paths. Remember it is only the main tracks that are done by someone else; it is each individual's responsibility to keep the path all round their own plot reasonably trim.

A Health and Safety inspection by the Trustees' revealed a few problems, but no very serious ones. They were pleased with the state of the site in general. The main issues that emerged were not specifically H&S related. They were that we need:

- (i) Clear numbers on all plots.
- (ii) To keep working at the paths.

Whilst there has been some excellent progress there are still far too many areas where paths do not exist.

There should be a path round/very near the edge of every full-size plot (not essential between half plots).

Please plan to tackle yours during the next twelve months.

Stephanie has been really busy with allotment matters since she took on the role of Clerk to the Trustees. She has sorted out the water supply problem at Armour Hill (quite a saga). She can find her way around the sites and has fathomed the complex plot numbering system, and let several plots. Good luck with it all.

Seasonal Reminders

Hoe; now everything is germinating, including, or indeed especially weeds. A quick whizz round the plot with a hoe at least once a week will save you hours of weeding later.

Plant; squash, courgettes, sweet-corn, tomatoes and dont forget winter stuff like leeks and greens.

Sow; crops like carrots, beans, salad, oriental greens. They say that late sowing is a good way to beat carrot fly (Your secretary is not sure its true!)

Waiting List

It is wonderful to see the progress made with land that had been a bit of a worry to previous tenants. For example Mervyn, the charity's longest standing tenant, had too much land to cope with. He now has a half plot and still has enough with his fruit trees, green house and vegetables. A big thank you to those who have released land; but please re-apply if you want another go. Everyone wants the land to be well used all the time.

Some of the seven new plot-holders remember their parents' allotments and now some 30 years later they are having a go themselves. For others it is entirely new. Either way, good luck and have fun. It is a hobby not a job, 'slow and steady' and 'be realistic' are useful mottos, and do ask - people are happy to chat.

There are now only 7 families waiting, we are fairly certain they will all be lucky by September 2013, so pass the word around the waiting time is much shorter.

Accessible plots

These plots change hands quite frequently. Please tell anyone who likes gardening and needs a small accessible plot to contact Jenny. We have vacancies .



Tim House

Lots of people used to stop and admire Tim's immaculate plot; he had the fewest weeds on site, grew wonderful crops and was very generous with runner beans. We missed him when he gave up his plot. Recently he passed away. It is good to know that his daughter Hayleigh has taken on her own half plot. Does Tim's talent run in the family? His standards are hard to match.



John Butt

John was our chairman from October 2007 until his untimely death in April. He really enjoyed the role and filled it with distinction. He was liked and respected. We miss him.

John helped us conduct our business efficiently. His experience and natural dogged persistence were instrumental in the Trustees recognising their responsibility for maintaining boundary hedges. John and Margaret ran many productive raffles for the Society. We send our condolences to her in her loss.

THOSE THAT SOW IN JOY.....

In Spring I went forth, sowing, the seed in secret slept.
But when my toil was finished into my garden crept
A host of deadly black-fly and multitudes of slugs
With carrot-fly and green-fly and families of bugs,
A thousand wily weevils and woodlice by the score,
All heading for my garden, with many millions more.

Large leatherjackets tunnelled and breakfasted on roots,
While slugworms, thrips and earwigs brought hordes of
new recruits,

The ants in massed battalions transported all my seed,
And sawfly rolled in roseleaves their infant grubs to feed.
Rust ruined my carnations while eelworms and their friends
Brought several close relations to stay for long weekends.

The caterpillars flourished and waxed exceeding fat,
While radish-fly and mildew laid every green leaf flat.
The blight hit my potatoes, the wireworms ate my Swedes,
Completing devastation came flocks of millipedes.
Instead of fruitful harvest from my small garden plot
I reaped Sweet Fanny Adams – these pests had scoffed the lot!

One day I'll have a garden where seeds will grow apace
And I will gladly tend them with loving care and grace;
When comes the Golden Harvest I'll gather joyfully
The fruits of all my labours with shouts of ecstasy;
And when the last great trump calls my soul from mortal shell,
I'll tend a heavenly garden – while pests all roast in Hell!

Signed F.L.M.