

Kingsclere Allotment Management Group  
Newsletter  
January 2017

Dear Plot Holders

Happy New Year to you all. 2016 suffered the usual unpredictable and challenging weather but there was lots of great produce grown. I had a bumper crop of sweet corn!

Group Members:

Beth Theobald - Chairperson  
Eric Rampton  
Diane Tate  
Nicola Peach  
Alan Denness  
David Hey

Welcome to our new member David. Please get in touch if you would like to join. We welcome fresh ideas, help and advice.

Improvements for 2017

We still have a rolling list of improvements we would like to make:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> water trough in the far corner.
- Cutting back/reducing the height of boundary trees.
- Removal of large rubbish (soil) heap along the boundary fence adjacent to the public footpath/play park.
- Reinstatement of a path running along the full length of the left boundary (parallel with the footpath/playpark)
- Removal of graffiti from the area.
- General tidy up and removal of all unwanted rubbish.
- Prune and maintenance of trees on the Community Orchard - Plot 1B(b)

The Group and Parish Council are making enquiries and getting quotes for these issues. Updates will follow.

Spring Clean - 4 March 2017

To tackle the rubbish, reinstatement of boundary path and soil heap, we are planning a Spring Clean on Saturday 4 March 2017. A skip will be provided and we need all plot holders to come along. All rubbish from plots is to be removed on this date. If you are unable to attend on this date the skip will be available for a further week. We will be removing the soil heap on this day and anticipate that there will be lots of amazing top soil that we can re-distribute onto your plots rather than throwing it in the skip.

Plot Markers

We are aware that many plots do not have clear markers and that the existing wooden ones easily become lost in the summer growing season. We would like to renew the plot markers but we know

this will be costly and time consuming. If anyone has any good ideas or resources, please can they get in touch.

## Allotment Competition and Picnic Saturday 15 July 2017

We are holding a competition and picnic again this year with prizes for the following categories:

1. Best Overall Plot
2. Best Overall Crop
3. Most creative/best use of eco friendly methods
4. Judges choice/special mention
5. Childrens Competition – Tallest Sunflower

The judging will take place the week before and trophies will be awarded at the picnic. If you have a trophy from 2015, please can you return it to the Parish Clerk.

### Reminders

Orchard - We have an allotment orchard that is situated on plot 1B(b). You are free to harvest any fruit on this plot but please take only what you need so we may all enjoy some each. This plot regularly needs to be trimmed. If you see it is getting long and are able, please spend a few minutes with your strimmer to keep it down. We are going to consult a fruit tree expert to help us prune them, as they are in desperate need of some TLC.

Police - Please report all instances of theft, trespass, antisocial behaviour and vandalism at the allotments to the police on the 101 number and the Parish Clerk.

Plot maintenance - All plots and surrounding paths must be kept in good order. The Group will be checking regularly during the growing season starting at the beginning of March and reporting to the Parish Clerk.

Cars - Please do not bring cars into the allotments when it is very wet and muddy. This will prevent huge ruts being formed on the main paths. We will be putting signs up on the front gate to remind you.

Your sincerely  
Beth Theobald - Chair person  
Allotment Management Group

Contact:  
Beth Theobald, Chair 07916 032250 [beth.theobald@btinternet.com](mailto:beth.theobald@btinternet.com)  
Louise Porton, Parish Clerk 01635 298634 [clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)