

# **Kingsclere Allotment Management Group (AMG)**

Newsletter  
September 2017

## **Autumn Clean**

Please see the attached poster. The Clean will take place on October 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm. The skip filled up quickly last time with lots of very old, bulky rubbish. This time we would like to concentrate on removing the large soil heap and reducing/burning the overgrown tree line adjacent to the toilet bordering The Lines. Many hands make light work. Please come along and lend a hand even if it for a short while. Spades, wheelbarrows, gloves and a sense of humour essential! (Remember this is not for disposal of green autumn waste, this should be composted or taken to the local refuse tip).

## **Plot maintenance/Unallocated plots**

We have been working with the Parish Clerk to identify plots that have not been cultivated. We have written letters reminding plot holders of their responsibility to maintain their plots to a level that does not cause a nuisance to other, in particular weeds left to go to seed and paths unmaintained. We have resolved most of these issues, however, we realise there is more work to do.

## **Allotment Competition and Picnic Saturday 15 July 2017 - Results**

Best Overall Plot - 2C - Trophy  
2nd Place - 2A Certificate  
3rd place - 1K Certificate  
4th place - 2Bb Certificate

Best Overall Crop - 2Ga (potatoes) Trophy  
Organic methods - 2B(a) Trophy  
Judges Choice - 3F(b) Trophy  
Children's Sunflower 1A - Trophy

Well done to all those who achieved an award. If you haven't collected your trophy or certificate, they are in the Parish Clerk's office.

## **Kingsclere Gardening Association Open Gardens - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

This was a great success, the allotments were part of the event and we received lots of visitors. As a result Kingsclere Gardening Association has been able to make donations to 4 local charities:

St Michaels Hospice - £100  
Living Paintings - £100  
Sail4Cancer - £50  
Naomi House - £50

## **New Group Members**

If you would like to join the Group and have a say in the management of the Allotments and bring fresh ideas, please get in touch. In particular we need a Secretary, however, any involvement with the Group would be very welcome.

## **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.

**Toilet** - This facility is available during the Spring, Summer and Autumn. It is drained down in winter to prevent frost damage. If you would like a key, they are available from the Parish Clerk with a £5 deposit. The AMG will give it a clean in the Spring and there are cleaning materials in there for everyone's use.

**Damage/Vandalism/Rubbish/Cars/Gate left open** - We are aware that the bench and surrounding area is being used by non plot holders, that lots of rubbish is being left and cars are being driven in, especially in the warmer months. If you see anyone there, please encourage them to leave or, if you would rather not confront them, call the Police on 101. Please report **all** instances to the Parish Clerk.

**Plot Markers** - It is now the individual plot holder's responsibility to mark his or her own plot. There is a small quantity of wooden marker stakes still available. If you didn't receive a marker when they were originally distributed (approx. 2012/13) let the Parish Clerk know. The Rules and Regulations will be amended to reflect this.

#### **Improvements for 2017 - Update**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> water trough in the far corner.  
The Parish Council have approved this in principle and we are now going ahead with proper quotes and costing.
- Cutting back/reducing the height of boundary trees.  
We took matters into our own hands during the Spring Clean and removed most of the dense vegetation up to 10ft or so. We are still keen for Sovereign to significantly reduce the height and/or remove the tallest trees. Our negotiations continue.
- Removal of graffiti from the area.  
Unfortunately the chemicals we have tried have been unable to remove this.

| Yours sincerely

Beth Theobald - Chairperson  
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)

#### **Group Members:**

Beth Theobald - Chairperson  
Eric Rampton  
Diana Tait  
Nicola Peach  
Alan Denness  
David Hey

# Kingsclere Allotment's Spring Clean

## Saturday 14 October 2017 10am – 4pm



FROM THIS TO THIS!

*The Spring Clean was a huge success.*

*Now it's time for an Autumn Clean!*

We would like to concentrate on the large soil pile on the left fence line this time. Please bring a wheel barrow, sturdy gloves and equipment for digging, pruning and heavy lifting.

See you all there.

The Kingsclere Allotment Group

Contact Beth Theobald 07916 032250 or Louise Porton (Parish Clerk 298634 for more information)