

Kingsclere Allotment Management Group (AMG)

Newsletter

May 2017

Children's Sunflower Competition

The seedlings are growing well and now at least 10" tall. They are fully hardened off and need to be planted asap. Remember these are a giant variety and will need staking from the get go. I will take them down to the allotments on Saturday morning. I have spoken to a couple of families and will leave some plants on their plot. The remainder I will leave on my plot 1A to help yourselves. I will go round with a tape measure on the day of the picnic to decide the winner.

Please see further info below regarding the Picnic and Competition

Spring Clean

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who helped out on the 4th of March. The Allotments are looking very tidy. We were able to re-instate a 1m path along the left boundary, parallel to the footpath. We cleared a lot of soil from the heap, cut down a colossal amount of trees/undergrowth/vegetation from the toilet boundary and a huge amount of plastics and metal. The skip was very full, very quickly!

We are planning to repeat this again in Autumn to hopefully remove the last of the soil heap and any other rubbish that was missed last time. Note - this won't be for general autumn plot clearance organic waste as this should be composted or taken to the dump by each individual.

Plot maintenance/Unallocated plots

The Parish Clerk, along with the Group, have identified some plots that are in urgent need of cultivation and more importantly, weed control, in particular, dandelion clocks. These will be receiving a reminder letter this week. All plots and surrounding paths must be kept in good order. Please be aware that there were some unallocated earlier in the year however, these have just now been allocated.

New tenants - please can you mow/strim/weedkill/clear your plots of weeds as a matter of urgency. Many thanks.

Improvements for 2017 - Update

- 3rd 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.

Allotment Competition and Picnic Saturday 15 July 2017 -

NOW SATURDAY 22 JULY 12-2PM

Due to a clash with a school event and the Kingsclere Gardening Association Open Gardens the following day (the majority of the Group committee are involved with preparations for this), we have decided to put back the date of the picnic by a week.

Don't forget we are holding a competition with trophies 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. Children's Competition - Tallest Sunflower

The judging will take place the week before and trophies will be awarded at the picnic.

Kingsclere Garden Association Open Gardens - Sunday 16th July 2017 2-6pm

We are opening the allotments to visitors the day after the competition/picnic. We would love as many plot holders as possible to be there to show visitors around and talk about their plots.

If this is something you would like to do, please get in touch.

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.

Yours sincerely

Beth Theobald - Chairperson
Allotment Management Group

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