

Kingsclere Allotment Management Group (AMG)
Newsletter
February 2017

Spring Clean - 4 March 2017 10am-4pm

The date of the Spring Clean on 4 March is drawing near very quickly. The aim of the day is to:

1. Clear the left boundary path (Row 1), of soil and rubbish and reinstate a 1m wide path all the way along. Including removal of all rubbish- plastics, wood, broken equipment and trees/bushes. This is to prevent vegetation from allotments growing through the fence, damaging it and making the maintenance of the pedestrian path difficult.
2. General tidy up of unwanted and broken equipment and general rubbish from plots.

A skip will be available from the 3rd for all those who are keen to start. It is vitally important that all plot holders come along to lend a hand. This will make the task much easier and quicker. It will be great to welcome new plot holders and put names to faces/plot numbers.

All rubbish, wood, allotment equipment/compost bins, especially on Row 1, must be moved on or before 4 March to create the 1 metre path. Please let the AMG know if you are unable to attend to discuss what we will need to remove from your plot. (Row 1 only). It may be possible to keep the skip for longer but we can't guarantee it.

Don't forget that we anticipate there will be lots of amazing top soil that we can re-distribute onto your plots rather than throwing it in the skip.

Please bring wheelbarrows and any tools you have available for this task. A pair of heavy duty gloves is essential due to the possibility of glass and other hidden hazards.

Improvements for 2017 - Update

- 3rd water trough in the far corner.
The AMG are getting prices, conducting a feasibility study and exploring funding possibilities.
- Cutting back/reducing the height of boundary trees.
Good news - Sovereign Housing has acknowledged our request and have forwarded it to their maintenance team so this should go ahead quickly.
- Removal of graffiti from the area.
Special chemicals have been sourced and attempts to remove it are ongoing.
- Prune and maintenance of trees on the Community Orchard - Plot 1B(b)
This took place on Saturday 11 February 2017. Hopefully the trees will be healthier and stronger, giving us a great crop this year.

Plot Markers

The Parish Council has decided that 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.

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. Children's 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 ASAP.

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.

Plot maintenance – All plots and surrounding paths must be kept in good order. The AMG will be checking regularly during the growing season starting at the beginning of March and reporting to the Parish Clerk. If you are struggling due to ill health and need help, please contact the AMG before it becomes a problem.

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.

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 101 and the Parish Clerk.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 4th.

Yours sincerely

Beth Theobald – Chairperson
Allotment Management Group

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