



Kingsclere Allotment Management Group Newsletter Spring 2018



Welcome.

The Kingsclere Allotment Management Group would like to welcome all new plot holders. We want to invite anyone to join the group. You will be able to have your say on the running of the allotments and help implement improvements.

Spring Clean - 24 March 2018 10am-3pm

We have scheduled another Spring Clean for the 24 March 2018. The aim of the day is to:

1. Clear Plot 1C of rubbish to enable it to be reallocated this year.
2. General tidy up of unwanted and broken equipment and general rubbish from plots.
3. Assess what maintenance/improvements we need to tackle this year.

A skip will be available from the 23rd 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.

PLEASE DO NOT FILL UP THE SKIP WITH ANY COMPOSTABLE MATERIAL. PLEASE TAKE THIS TO THE DUMP FOR RECYCLING OR PUT IN YOUR OWN COMPOST BINS.

Allotment Competition, Children's "Grow the Tallest Sunflower Challenge" and Summer Picnic 2018 date TBC.

We organise a get together once a year, usually in July. Sadly last year was a total wash out. We want to know if you would like to continue with the competition element or have more emphasis on the social event. Please give us feedback on this.

Fundraising for a 3rd water trough.

We are still endeavouring to install a 3rd water trough along the end of row 3 and are thinking of trying to fund raise for this. If you have any ideas or are able to help with the ground works, which is the most expensive element, please contact the Group.

Paddock/Open Space - New Orchard.

You may have noticed that some fruit trees were planted earlier this year and this space is now a Community Village Orchard. More plantings are scheduled for the future.

Shading from Trees bordering The Lines.

The Group is still working with the Parish Council and that landowner to get these trees thinned/reduced in height to allow more light into the allotments.

REMINDERS:

Orchard - We have our own Allotment Community Orchard situated on plot 1B(b) for PLOT HOLDERS ONLY. 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. The trees are regularly maintained by the Group with the help of a local expert.

Plot maintenance - ALL PLOTS AND SURROUNDING PATHS MUST BE KEPT IN GOOD ORDER. The contractors only mow the main access route through and trim the edges. 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.

ALL PLOT HOLDERS ON ROW 1, PLEASE REMEMBER YOU NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE 1M PATH NEXT TO THE FENCE IS CLEAR OF VEGETATION AND MAINTAIN IT AS YOU WOULD THE SIDE PATHS.

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 ARE CONSIDERING PADLOCKING THE GATES IN THE WINTER MONTHS.

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.

Bin - There is a black bin situated near the toilet. This is for the use of the PARISH LITTER WARDEN ONLY. Please use the public bin located next to the play park or dispose of rubbish at home/at the tip.

Trespass and Damage/Vandalism - We are aware that the bench has been used by non plot holders in the past and that rubbish was being left everywhere, 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. If you suffer any theft or vandalism to your plot, again, please ring 101 and report **all** instances to the Parish Clerk.

Yours sincerely
Beth Theobald – Chairperson
Allotment Management Group

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Group Members:

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Eric Rampton
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Nicola Peach – Parish Councillor
Alan Denness
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