

The Plot

November 2011

A newsletter for members of Kettering Allotments

Rents Increase

There will be an increase in the rents for 2012. The committee agreed to this reluctantly, but we need to balance our books. The new rents will be **£2.50 per pole** (or £2 per pole for pensioners).

The membership fee is also increasing to £2 per year from January. This was agreed at the last AGM in March.

Rent reminders will be sent by email in early December. If you do not have email, we will post a reminder.

It is very important to include your plot number and field on the membership renewal form. If you are unsure about how much rent to pay, or your plot number, please contact our treasurer,

Mr Dai Johnson on 01536 483398

Security

All of our fields have had break-ins and vandalism in recent weeks. It has been very distressing to members. Field stewards and committee members have spent a lot of time with PCSOs and other Police Officers. We had a visit from a Crime Prevention Officer who has made recommendations for the committee to pursue.

Meanwhile, take sensible precautions and make sure all incidents are reported to the police and a **crime number** is issued. The police have a new telephone number- very simple to remember **dial 101**

New Police Phone number
for non emergencies = **101**

Use **999** for emergencies or dial **112** for emergencies if you are using a mobile.

Water Questionnaire

Many thanks to all those members who returned water questionnaires. The secretary compiled the responses and reported to the committee at its August meeting. The committee **agreed to keep mains water** and increase the rents to cover costs. To see the full report see our website or click [here](#)

Many members made useful suggestions for saving water and coping with drought. These are listed at the end of the report.

Photography Competition

The winner is Carlene Cole from the Scott Road field. To see the winning photo, go to the back page of this newsletter.

Lock the Gates!

A reminder to lock the gates to our fields at all times. We have had fly tipping and unwelcome visitors on our plots recently. The gates and locks cost a lot of money. It is a shame that some members can't be bothered to lock them.

Free manure
Telephone Dai to arrange
collection
01536 483398

www.ketteringallotments.co.uk

The Plot

November 2011

A newsletter for members of Kettering Allotments

FLY TIPPING

Will all members please be alert to any instances of fly tipping.

Allotments are not rubbish dumps and waste should not be left on them. Most members have an old pallet, a few bricks, an occasional concrete slab etc. However, some people (not our members, but how do they gain access?) have dumped **large quantities** of waste on our plots and car parks. If you spot this going on, please make a note of the vehicle registration number.

If you have a camera phone, please take a photo or video the tipping. We can then report this to the authorities.

Communication

If you are intending to give up your allotment, or wish to reduce the area, please let your field steward know as soon as possible. We can adjust the records, send correct rent reminders and allocate plots to those on the waiting list.

Low Cost Barrels

We have made contact with a source of sturdy 200 litre barrels. They are made from sturdy plastic, so will not rust or rot. The cost is only £5 each. If you want to buy one, contact the secretary on pumpkinking@ntlworld.com

Safety First!

We all want to enjoy our allotments and remain safe. Trips to A&E are a nuisance, so the committee has adopted a **Health and Safety** policy.

A key aspect of this policy is that we are all responsible for safety on our fields. **If any member notices a new hazard, it is essential that it is reported and made as safe as possible.** We all need to read this policy and be aware of its content. The policy is now available on our [website](#), along with a [hazards checklist](#). If you have any suggestions for additions or improvements, please contact the secretary.

In some ways, Health and Safety is what used to be called “common sense”. However, we all know somebody who seems to lack “common sense” and will benefit from a gentle reminder. Some gardening activities are hazardous, so we need to take care (called risk assessment).

Margaret Rd Gate

A reminder about the noise made at the Margaret Road Gate.

Please consider our neighbours. The resident works nights and needs to sleep in the mornings.

Please try to open the gate quietly, **switch off car radios** and do your best not to disturb the neighbours.

The Plot

November 2011

A newsletter for members of Kettering Allotments

Economies of Scale

Northfield Avenue members have negotiated a 10% discount on bulk (20+ bags) of corn etc for chicken feed.

Individuals are unlikely to need such bulk, but they can join with others. Those members with chickens who would like to benefit from this should contact Pete or Sandy Ludwig at the Northfield Avenue field or email

sludwig@kettering.gov.uk

Contact us

Email us on the address below

pumpkinking@ntlworld.com

If you wish find out more about our association please visit the website

www.ketteringallotments.co.uk

Stones (kill 2 birds...)

Many members have been helping to fill the pot-holes on the tracks and ridings to our fields. The drive is now getting smoother. Many thanks.

Some members have also provided hardcore and pieces of broken slabs to fill the potholes.

This is welcome, but please check with your field steward, as there have been some instances of fly tipping.

Allotments are **NOT** rubbish tips, and such dumping will be considered a disciplinary matter.

www.ketteringallotments.co.uk

Bridgstock Cup

The Bridgstock Cup is a fine trophy awarded to the best plot in our four fields. Many thanks to the judges. **This year's winner is Billy Hartnet** on Windmill Avenue. Second prize was awarded to **Heather Jackson** on Margaret Road and highly commended to **Mandy Chappel** on Northfield Avenue. The cup was presented by the mayor at Brambleside Community Association's Harvest Market event in September.

The cup is awarded annually by the committee to the plot holder who, in the opinion of a sub-committee, is deemed to have the best plot from all of the association's sites.

The criteria we look for are: a neat and tidy weed-free plot, a variety of produce, vegetables, soft fruit, flowers, evidence of composting, collection of rain water for irrigation and general good gardening practices.

Novice Gardeners

New allotment members often ask their neighbours for advice. This especially applies if the plot is overgrown with weeds when they take it on. Some suggestions are now on our website – click [here](#). Perhaps you can add some other words of advice?

