



KENILWORTH ALLOTMENT TENANTS ASSOCIATION K.A.T.A.



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

Here we go again, another Allotment gardening year will shortly be drawing to a close and with it some reflections on the current local, national and world events which were re-enacted on site!!! Yes, it's been quite a year and you saw it all happening here The Queen's 90th Birthday, Brexit, the Olympics, the Siege of Kenilworth... but we'll come to all of that later.

First of all, we should congratulate ourselves on surviving the elements and actually getting anything to grow at all in what has been, to quote the Chairman's favourite annual AGM phrase, 'a challenging year' weather-wise. The extremely prolonged wet and unseasonably cold start to the year forced many of us to delay sowing and then when we finally did, what followed was a prolonged hot and dry spell and some of our crops just failed to take off. It would seem that weather extremes now appear to be the norm. On top of all that, the Odibourne site was faced with flooding again, not only once but twice, and this probably added to the explosion this year of mares-tail and weeds (strands from the mares-tail and old weed seeds which are floated and carried by the water) and they just germinate wherever they finally land when the water subsides, destroying all hopes and the best attempts of good tenants to keep their plots weed free. This same observation was made by our judge this year. Although at the start of the year, even some of the Beehive Hill plots were water logged for the early part, delaying planting there for a while.

A sad event happened earlier in the year with the death of long time tenant, Brian Aspinwall. Brian and his wife were holidaying in Australia with their family when Brian had a heart attack and died there. Brian was a relatively young man, a respected Allotmenteer, and his plot was always immaculate. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Barbara and his family.

On a much happier note, we must congratulate some of our Odibourne tenants; Pete Hayes and Trudy Brown from plots 15b & 45a, who many of you will also know as our Shop Managers, became engaged, and James Higginbotham and his partner Sarah Bain from plot 84 got married. Congratulations to all and sincere good wishes for the future from all of us at K.A.T.A.

Our thanks also go to two of our Committee members, Keith Rockett and to Catherine Pettman, who are both retiring as Beehive Hill representatives. Catherine is in fact retiring from

her Allotment to pursue a new business venture. Both have given excellent service and helped in the efficient running and maintenance of the Beehive Hill site for the last 2-3 years. We are currently looking for one or two enthusiastic tenants from the Beehive site who would be prepared to build on and continue the good work that both Keith and Catherine have already done.

So it's been yet another busy year with Open Day at Beehive Hill, The Lions Show, and Open Day at Odibourne site. All of those regular events are not possible without the organisation and participation of our Committee and generous help and donations from amongst our membership. Our thanks go to all those who have helped in any way at all.

Anyone who has not yet got involved with any of our 'Events' and would like to, please contact Lily initially and your interest will be registered on our database. Then at the appropriate time our Events Secretary, Paula Hallam will contact you.

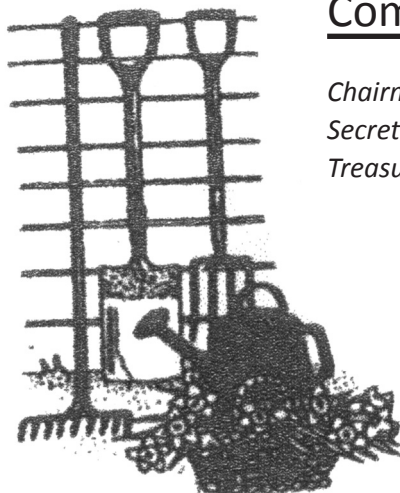
Lily Brownjohn (Allotment Secretary)

Our first big event of the year was the ...

LIONS SHOW Sat 11th June

Paula has now got this event down to a fine art and the organisation was second to none. What more can be said except to once again thank all who helped/contributed/fetched and carried. The Kenilworth Lion's organisation was also excellent this year with a good layout plan in the Abbey Fields. Our stall was well positioned and all in all it was another successful fund-raising day for us.

HER MAJESTY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY was held on Sunday 12th June..... A lunchtime celebration took place to commemorate this event at Odibourne site and tenants from all three sites were invited. This was organised by Pete, Trudy and Paula and it was a sight to behold with gazebos, bunting, fabulous barbeque and entertainment from our friends, Romany Pie!!! The turnout was good and those who came along to enjoy the atmosphere and Pete's cooking were not disappointed. Some of us were also lucky enough to enjoy a plateful of strawberries kindly donated by Richard Palmer. Many of us stayed on into the evening hoping that Her Majesty would pop in for a quick one before lights out, but she must have been otherwise engaged. A small donation



Committee members

			Plot / Site
<i>Chairman</i>	Mike Hitchins	864801	79 Odibourne
<i>Secretary</i>	Lily Brownjohn	855291	51 Odibourne
<i>Treasurer</i>	Philip Jordan	733407	37a Odibourne
	Robin Ashby	853560	68a Odibourne
	Trudy Brown	851382	15b & 45a Odibourne
	Chris Coton	513268	3a Spring Lane
	Paula Hallam	856480	44 Odibourne
	Dave Harwood	511220	58b Odibourne
	Pete Hayes	851382	15b & 45a Odibourne
	Peter Jones	853930	18b Odibourne
	Martyn Partridge	854890	15a Odibourne

was made to Myton Hospice which was collected on the day. Many thanks to those who contributed and to Pete, Trudy and Paula for their enterprising hard work. (*Now, what other excuse can we think of for another barbecue?*)!!!

OPEN DAY AT BEEHIVE HILL (In conjunction with the National Open Gardens Scheme) was held on Sunday 19th June. This proved to be a bit stressful for some and where appropriate, and with the time available, we were able to help sort out a couple of plots which were a bit below par. We did not know until asking those tenants to tidy up a bit that health problems had prevented the upkeep of their plots to the standard required within their tenancy agreements. We would once again ask you all to let us know if you are struggling to maintain your plots for whatever reason. We will help if we can, or offer alternative solutions where appropriate to ease the problem. We are currently working on what we hope will be a comprehensive guide to keeping on top of your plot, and the steps to take when things start to go wrong and this will be circulated in due course.

Other than that, the day went off exceptionally well, with perhaps not so many visitors as last year through the gates (possibly because it clashed with Father's Day) and plant sales, which added to the funding of many worthy charities. We have already been approached by the Chairman of the local 'National Open Gardens Scheme' to confirm our participation again for next year and we look forward to your support. A conversation with the National Garden's Chairman confirmed that plots do not necessarily need to be absolutely spotlessly 'perfect'. (That would be lovely, but in the real world, and by the very nature of an Allotment site, I doubt practical or even achievable!) So long as plots are well kept, ie. weed free, paths trimmed and show signs of tlc and good cultivation. We all tidy up a bit when we know someone is coming to visit our home, so why not apply that little bit of extra pride to our plots before Open Days.

JUDGING OF PLOTS...

... took place on Monday 11th July and last year we listened to all your comments and with full Committee agreement, applied one or two amendments to our judging schedule. Hopefully all those interested enough took a look at the new guidelines which were displayed inside the shop for all to scrutinise as well as being published in the Spring newsletter and also on the notice boards in plenty of time. Our Judge Sarah Ridgeway from Hinton's Nursery commented, "I had a great day judging. The NSALG's guidelines always make me smile, but they offer some really good common sense advice for everyone. The standard on the Allotments seems even higher this year, and there were lots of examples of creativity, as well as hard work....making the judging even more difficult". We are grateful to Sarah for her time spent on site with us.

We must also thank Alan Savage for helping us with the Pre-judging and Catherine Pettman and Peter Jones who helped to escort the Judge around our three sites. *The results were as follows:*

MAIN COMPETITION WINNERS

	Plot number		Points
1ST	48 ODI	MARIE GORMLEY	89
2ND	51 ODI	LILY BROWNJOHN	88½
3RD	16 B/H	MADELEINE SEXTON	87

HIGHLY COMMENDED

1ST	11 ODI	RICHARD PALMER	84 ½
2ND	6 B/H	KEITH & JOAN ROCKETT	83
3RD	23 ODI	JANE BALLARD	79
4TH	13 B/H	J OTHEN & D WILSON	78

NOVICES

1ST	17 B/H	PHILIP FINCH	74
2ND	2 B/H	SUE & STEVE PEARCE	69 ½
3RD	35B ODI	JEFF & CHRIS WILLIAMS	63

AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

52A ODI GINNY & SARAH CULLEN & MUM JUDY

Words seem inadequate to describe this quarter plot. Please just take a look. You will be entranced.

JUDGING OF SCARECROWS...

This took place on 9th August, hot on the heels of plot judging and with it came some great ideas, many following *local, national and world themes*. Not one to let us down with their clever creations on plot 97 Odi, was good old Boris (Borage) on his zip wire – a sight to behold with thoughts on Brexit echoed by John and Heather Davies. A swimmer from the Olympics who obviously missed the plane to Rio became stranded down by the river bank, and was naturally concerned about drinking the water—great idea from Ann Cordery on 95b Odi. Peter Jones's Team G Bean was happy to stay home as well on plot 18b Odi. And there were some great players from 'The Siege' who had obviously decided to make their appearance on the Allotments in preference to the affray at Kenilworth Castle over the Bank holiday weekend. For those, we must congratulate John Gardiner on plot 56a with Simon's The Robed Rebel, The Smith family's Simon deMontfork on 30a Odibourne and Alex White's Sir Plants a lot on 71 Odi. All great ideas on local, national and world themes, but lots more great ideas and support for this fun competition from everyone who took part. A fantastic visual attraction for our shortly to follow 'Open Day'. Results as follows:

TRADITIONAL SCARECROW WINNERS (2 ENTRIES)		Plot number
1ST	NO CROWS HERE	RICHARD PALMER 11 ODI
2ND	CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS	SIMON & LYNN PARKES 21B ODI

CHILDREN'S CATEGORY

1ST	MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY	AMY & MOLLIE WEIR 98 ODI
2ND	SIR PLANTS A LOT	ALEX WHITE 71 ODI
3RD	THE BRUSSEL SCOUT	DANIEL, AMELIA & ELLIOTT BAYNTON 10A ODI

NOVELTY

1ST	BORAGE JOHNSON	JOHN & HEATHER DAVIES 97 ODI
2ND	SIEGE OF OF PLOT 30A	THE SMITH FAMILY 30A ODI
3RD =	SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE	PAT HOUGH 94B ODI
3RD =	PEACASSO	BILL & JACKIE HODGKINSON 25 ODI
3RD =	FREDDY MER "CROW"Y & BRIAN HAY	JOHN THOMPSON 39A ODI

Judge's comments – "All of the entries in this category were delightful, and I was amazed by the diverse range of themes and ideas. It was wonderful to see the current local, national and world themes reflected in the Allotments. From the Kenilworth 750 Siege, to the Olympics and Brexit, the Scarecrows provide an inspiring snapshot of Summer 2016 and together with the creativity, planning and hard work that has clearly gone into producing these, it was a pleasure to be involved in the judging". Maggie Field, Kenilworth Town Clerk.

SECRETARY'S CHUCKLE AWARD

Plot number	
OLYMPIC SWIMMER (Don't drink the water)!	ANN CORDERY PLOT 95B ODI

SECRETARY'S DOUBLE CHUCKLE AWARD

LAUREL & HALF HARDY	MARIE GORMLEY PLOT 45 ODI
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All other entries were awarded 'VERY HIGHLY COMMENDED'

So is this the final curtain for Dottie Lottie? Her threatened demise to the great compost bin in the sky has raised international concern... will she/won't she....will the petition be enough to save her ...could she be re-incarnated....we will just have to wait and see my friends!!!!

Our next busy date on the calendar was

OPEN DAY AT ODIBOURNE, SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST...

Which this year was another triumph thanks to all who made it happen. Our wonderful scarecrows made a good half page in the Kenilworth Weekly News, who have helped us to promote this annual event for the last 13 years. We had at least 300 paying guests through our gates plus their children and the weather

couldn't have been better. We also for the first time used stepping stone advertising along Stoneleigh Road as well as Leamington Road, both busy entrances to Kenilworth, so these may also have contributed to the success of the event. A portion of our takings always goes towards The Mayor's chosen Charity and this year we will be sending £200 to our Town Mayor, Councillor Richard Davies who is supporting the 'Heart Rehabilitation Fund' and 'Dogs for the Disabled' charities. We have a couple of very special thankyou's to make, as well as to all of our helpers and supporters and that is to young Sebastian Scott, who helped us raise money on his plot (38 Odi) with his 'Archery challenge'. Sebastian must be our youngest enterprising tenant so far (at just 6 years old) and we are so grateful and so proud of him. 'Thankyou Sebastian from all of us'. Another big 'Thankyou' goes to big sister Eleanor who also helped out on the cakes and jams stall. Well done guys.

All monies raised from our events throughout the year will be published in our accounts at the AGM on Thursday October 20th

TALLEST SUNFLOWER RESULTS ...

1 place	plot 9 ODI	Martin Poole	3.45 metres
2 place	plot 73 ODI	Gill & Glen Hutchinson	3.34 metres
3 place	plot 11 ODI	Richard Palmer	3.28 metres

Congratulations to all who participated.

FREE PROPERTY MARKING SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 9AM-12PM...

Earlier in the year, and again quite recently a greenhouse was damaged by youths throwing stones from Washbrook Bridge. This was reported to police and contact was made with PCSO Ed King. Follow up contact has continued and he has offered to come to the shop at Odibourne site on Sunday 18th September 9am-12pm, if you would like your lawn mower/trimmer/hand/power tools marked with Cre-mark **FOR FREE**. – (See notice boards for more detail) This initiative comes under the Kenilworth Safer Neighbourhood Scheme.

Two recent shed break-ins have been reported, but nothing has been stolen and two more greenhouses have had glass damaged. A protective barrier or netting around your greenhouse might be worth considering. Please report any 'nuisance/damage' incidents to the police as with some sort of pattern emerging, they may be able to track down the perpetrators. And as these are non emergency, please use either 684404 or Ed King's number, 684471.

RENTS ARE DUE ON OR NO LATER THAN 29TH SEPTEMBER

and for your convenience, Committee members will be available in the shop to enable you to do this hopefully quickly and easily.

There will be no increase this year and rents are as follows, (part plots pro rata), but if you are not sure what proportion your plot is $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, etc please ask the Committee member to consult the database and check it out. Please also check that we have your correct details as these can change over the course of a year. Likewise, we could have also changed your plot number slightly if you are on a part plot. Your plot may have now become an 'a', 'b' or a 'c', and this will have happened due to either the splitting or combining of plots. This is not cause for concern as payment goes against your name and not your plot. The database will be in name order for this occasion, as some tenants do sometimes find it hard to remember their plot numbers!

BEEHIVE HILL -	£25.00
ODIBOURNE -	£30.00
SPRING LANE -	£40.00

**THE DATES FOR RENT COLLECTION ARE DURING SHOP OPENING
HOURS 10AM – 12PM SAT & SUN OVER TWO WEEKENDS:**

SAT 17TH & SUN 18TH September

SAT 24TH & SUN 25TH September

If you cannot make any of these dates, please advise the Secretary and alternative arrangements can be made. A late payment fine of £5.00 will automatically be imposed if rents are not received on or before the 'due by' date of 29th September

KING'S SEEDS CATALOGUES...

...will also be available for collection from the shed on the above dates, but if you forget to take one, they will still be available to collect from the shop in time to order before the 30th October. King's seeds are around 40% cheaper than comparable seeds on the market and collectively, our total order brings a percentage back into the Association as funds – so everyone benefits. The orders are all collated by Chris, our Spring Lane representative and when they arrive, he is good enough to deliver them to your home. Thanks to Chris from all of us for this excellent service.

NOTE FOR THE DIARY – the last day for seed orders is Sunday 30th October and the orders must please be dropped into Chris at 69 Spring Lane (the house right next to the Spring Lane site)!

MAINTENANCE and general site news update...

Odibourne

We rely greatly on the generosity of our Committee to organise site maintenance and this year we are extremely grateful to Pete Hayes who, earlier in the year, together with the help of tenant Peter Selwood, virtually cleared the whole riverbank of overgrown willows at Odibourne site, allowing much needed light onto our plots. This also helped our annual river clearing by the local Scouts, who once again under the guidance of tenant and Scout leader Nick Schofield, did a superb job of clearing any debris, which might have accumulated in the river over the past 12 months.

The woodworking talents of Committee member Chris Coton from our Spring Lane site, more recently lent themselves to creating a new handrail to help us negotiate the narrow sloping track from the 'Engine' approach to the Allotments. We are grateful to Chris for such an immaculate and skilful job.

Following an attempted delivery of a full trailer-load of manure to one of our tenants on the Lower Ladyes Hills side of Odibourne site, we deemed it necessary in the interests of all plot-holders safety to close that track to vehicles until further notice. The track has a serious subsidence problem about half way down and we are currently talking to the Environment Agency and WDC for work and planning advice on how to proceed in making it safe for vehicular use again. This may take some time, so please be patient. We have also asked for advice on how to proceed with the construction of a footbridge over the river close to the shop. Other projects such as toilets have gone on hold until we have sorted out the more serious problem with the track.

You may have noticed that the $\frac{1}{2}$ plot nearest to the shed is now vacant. This is the latest and most practical area which we have now 'set aside' to create a raised bed appointed plot for wheelchair users.

Beehive Hill

This year, Beehive Hill has taken delivery of a new lawn mower plus a small 'container-like' secure structure to house it in. This is one example of the benefits reaped from our fund-raising efforts. This year delivery of manure will be deposited at the rear of the site this year and as before, we will be charging £2.00 per barrow-load – to be paid into the shop at Odibourne please. On a quick inspection of the boundary between plot and school, some long overdue work needs to be done to cut back some of the trees in that area, and concern has been raised at the grass and weeds being dumped by tenants into the hedge/ditch running along that boundary. This is not an acceptable practice. The boundary hedge parallel with the road would benefit from laying and enquiries are being made to that effect.

Spring Lane

All seems to be well at Spring Lane!

AND SO THE SEASON MARCHES ON.....

PUMPKIN WEIGH-IN...

To be held on Sunday 2nd October at the Engine Inn at 12.30pm.

There are some pretty competitive pumpkin growers out there and Andy from the Engine is gearing up once again to host the Pumpkin Weigh-in event of which he is our sponsor. (Usual format, pumpkins weighed outside on the pavement before adjourning inside The Engine for refreshments). You are welcome to come along even if you haven't got a pumpkin to be weighed! It's good fun with a lot of friendly banter. (Note: only pumpkins from plants purchased at the shop back in May are eligible for the competition. Names for entry will have been taken at the time of purchase). Andy puts on a tasty lunch completely free of charge and it is a most enjoyable and sociable light lunchtime gathering.

AGM

Thurs 20th October at the Copper House Club (formerly the Royal British Legion) **-7.30pm prompt.**

Come along and air and share your views. Please remember that any motions for discussion must be received in writing one week prior to the meeting. Please use letter box rear of Secretary's shed, plot 51 Odibourne site.

THE SHOP CLOSURES ON SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER...

Pete and Trudy can report another successful year in our trading shed (see Shop Report below) and they would like to thank all our volunteers who have helped out this year. Don't forget that surplus produce can now also be left at the shop to sell at the weekends

And remember, the shop starts to wind down in October and opening times are reduced to one hour only on Saturday and Sunday mornings throughout the whole month: 11-12 noon. The shop closes on 30th October and will re-open again in mid-February 2017.

So stock up on your compost now if you are organised enough to sow very early seeds next Spring! Fresh deliveries of manure will also be arriving shortly to re-invigorate and feed your plots over the winter rough digging period

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A SHOP VOLUNTEER? IT'S GOOD FUN AND AN EASY WAY FOR NEWCOMERS TO MAKE FRIENDS AND MEET OTHER TENANTS. EITHER CONTACT PETE OR TRUDY THROUGH katatradingstore@yahoo.com OR POP INTO THE SHOP AND LEAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS FOR THEM OR LET LILY KNOW AND YOUR INTEREST WILL BE REGISTERED ON OUR DATABASE AND PASSED TO TRUDY AND PETE WHO WILL CONTACT YOU

Shop Report (from Pete and Trudy)

The shop year is going exceptionally well with a fantastic start to the year. We have been kept busy both inside and outside the shop with the building of the new bays for the muck and woodchip. We are currently in the traditional summer lull but we have been stocking up ready for the autumn rush with muck, compost and lots of other lines being replenished.

The wood chip bay was filled to bursting after we managed to get all the willow coppicing done alongside Finham Brook earlier in the year. I owe thanks to the many helpers who assisted in the massive amount of wood that was felled and chipped. It really was a case of many hands made light work. I'll be looking to get this restocked in the spring.

We are always looking for new volunteers in the shop or the maintenance team. It's not a big commitment and we're a flexible bunch! If you can help please speak to Pete or Trudy either in person or now you can follow us on Facebook – KATA Kenilworth Allotments, email – KATATradingstore@yahoo.com or now on TWITTER!!!! @KATAAllotments

PRESENTATION EVENING FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 7PM FOR 7.30PM START

An entertaining evening for all, when those who have worked hard to grow 'the heaviest' or 'the tallest' or 'the best in whatever category' are rewarded with a Cup or Trophy or a Certificate for their achievements. A first class buffet and raffle is provided and the Mayor will be presenting the awards.

JUST A COUPLE OF REQUESTS PLEASE...

1. We are all busy harvesting at the moment and some of us may need to bring our cars on site to load up and take our heavier produce home. Please be considerate and harvest your produce before bringing your car on site. A vehicle was reported as parking on the track for 1½ hours the other day whilst the tenant dug her potatoes up. Please do your harvesting and *then* bring your car down to load up. Same goes when delivering heavy goods to the site. Please deliver and remove your car immediately. This request is purely to give respect and consideration to other track users
2. With all the recent hot weather, tenants are understandably filling their water butts up more frequently. It has been observed that tenants are using hose pipes with leaky connectors! This results in a lot of water waste and is evident by the amount of puddling on the track. As we are on water meters, this costs the Association money. With this in mind, please take more care

ITEM FOUND...

We have in our possession one large Olympics flag. If you've lost one, please contact Lily

KENILWORTH ALTOGETHER GREENER...

KATG brings together local people who are interested in living more sustainably and in seeing more green activity in the Town. With inspiring guest speakers, films and discussion we explore relevant issues and opportunities for individual and group action. Join us at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month (Sept – June) at the Kenilworth Centre. Email info.katg@yahoo.com or see our open-to-all Facebook page for details of the next meeting.

AND FINALLY, OUR LITTLE WALLET SIZED GREEN ALLOTMENT ID CARD SAVED THE DAY FOR ONE NEW TENANT !!!

As a matter of course, all of our new tenants are given a little wallet sized green ID card in with their starter pack, which on presentation at some of our local garden centres may get you a bit of a discount (Hinton's Nursery is one) but no harm in asking at others! However when one of our newest tenants was out walking her dog one day, she lost her wallet and had just about reached panic stations and was about to start cancelling all her cards, when I had a call out of the blue from a young man who had actually *found* her wallet. To start with, she was lucky that he was so honest, but he first of all tracked me down through the green ID card and I was able to connect tenant with finder, so thanks to that little green ID card a lot of heartache and hassle was avoided.

If anyone would like an ID card, please let me know. It's by no means compulsory, just an option, and who knows, could save you money one way or another. Lily

Any surplus garden furniture?

If you have garden furniture to dispose of, please donate it to KATA. Our existing stock of chairs and tables, much in demand at our Open Day, is beginning to wear out and urgently needs replacing. Please contact Paula Hallam.

