



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



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

What an eventful year this has been! But first, let's be thankful for the wonderful harvests we have produced. Plump and plentiful berries, trees laden with plums, pear trees that are just about to split down the middle with the weight of the fruit, beans that seem to be never ending in their proliferation! Some varieties of apples are plentiful, although we have sparse crops of others due to late frosts and high winds affecting the blossoms. Having heard complaints from some tenants that we've had a poor Summer, we have merely experienced a very dry Spring and generally cooler temperatures, which followed the driest Winter for 20 years causing some riverbeds to dry out. A 'heatwave alert' was announced in June and this last August Bank holiday has been quite spectacular and reminded us of hot Summers past. So, on the whole, although it's been a bit erratic, we've not had a year to complain about at all really, especially if we put it into perspective with events across the rest of the world. We have not suffered the wildfires of southern Spain when temperatures reached almost 50 degrees. We may have been quite concerned last month when the remnants of hurricane Gert headed our way and threatened our Open Day, but thankfully it waited in the wings until we had all packed up and gone home! Hurricane Harvey has wreaked havoc in the USA with devastation to homes and lives lost. With wildfires in California and floods in Asia as well as typhoons in China, I say once again ...'lets be thankful'!!!

As I also said, it has been an eventful year with some good news, some sad news and some news of change. Firstly following the retirement of one of our long term Allotmentees at Spring Lane earlier in the year, we heard the sad news of Eric Teale's death following an accident at home. Eric was an extremely knowledgeable gardener who was with us for around 20 years and he will be missed. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

We also recently lost another of our treasured tenants and that was Frank Skinner at Odibourne site. There was nothing that Frank didn't know about gardening and he always had a good word for everyone, especially taking newcomers under his wing. He was generous in thought and deed. He will be greatly missed by the many who knew and loved him.

On a happier note, you may remember the announcement that our shop managers Trudy Brown and Pete Hayes became engaged; well they actually tied the knot this year and were married at Kenilworth Castle in May. Our utmost best wishes to the happy couple are shared by all at K.A.T.A. for a happy future for them and their combined young families.

On a note of some changes now, we have had the retirement of one of our Committee members, Martin Partridge who generously prints our newsletters and recently did some research work for us.

Thankfully, Martyn has offered to continue helping the Association with the printing of our newsletters and for this we are most grateful. We will miss his wit and wise words in Committee. We have invited Catherine Nyman from Odibourne site to join our team. Catherine set up our seed swop scheme a couple of years ago and also manages our Allotment Facebook site alongside Trudy. She cares greatly about the Association and has helped out whenever she can.

Our Chairman of many years, Mike Hitchins also decided to retire as Chairman a few months ago. Mike spent much of his earlier years with us in a very active capacity, helping the Association reach the successful position it now holds within our Community. During that time, we have seen the construction of a member's community shed/shop on site and pre the opening of our Beehive Hill site in 2008, Mike installed a herringbone drainage system as the land we were allocated at Beehive Hill had a severe waterlogging problem. In the early years, Mike was also active in the pollarding of the willows at Odibourne site as in those days this was originally done by the river authority of the time, but with budget cuts, the pollarding by them became less and less frequent, rendering some of our plots unworkable due to overpowering shade from willows growing in height at a rate of 6ft per year. We thank Mike for his service to the Association, and wish him well, and as you will see, many changes and new faces are now at the helm of our thriving organisation.

At our Committee meeting of 22nd May, a new Chairman was elected and we welcomed Chris Coton (our Spring Lane Representative/Seed Secretary/Minute taker/Competition Pumpkin grower and general all round maintenance guy – not to mention the work he has done at the Spring Lane site to keep the badgers at bay and the handrail and gate work recently completed at our Odibourne site)!!! As you can see from that CV, Chris is generous with his time for the Association and is well experienced in its day to day running. (Almost forgot, he also organises the hedge cutting)!

In a departure from previous practice, a new position has been created on the Committee and that is for a Vice Chairman. This position has been very ably filled by Pete Hayes who has served the Association well in his relatively short period as a tenant. As well as he and Trudy running and keeping a good and profitable stock level at the shop, he has re-vamped the interior, added a shelter to the rear, and together with (now wife) Trudy's help in the research department, installed a desperately needed toilet alongside with help from volunteers, and last year spearheaded the pollarding of the whole of the Odibourne river willows together with more help from tenants. He can also be seen when time permits almost running along the track with the lawnmower! He is currently working on the installation of a much needed and anticipated foot bridge towards the Manor

Committee members



			Plot / Site
<i>Chairman</i>	Chris Coton	513268	3a Spring Lane
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Pete Hayes	851382	15b & 45a Odibourne
<i>Secretary</i>	Lily Brownjohn	855291	51 Odibourne
<i>Treasurer</i>	Philip Jordan	733407	37a Odibourne
	Robin Ashby	853560	68a Odibourne
	Trudy Hayes	851382	15b & 45a Odibourne
	Paula Hallam	856480	44 Odibourne
	Dave Harwood	07785 991291	58b Odibourne
	David Hoy	851396	20 Beehive Hill
	Peter Jones	853930	18b Odibourne
	Catherine Nyman	07980552963	38 Odibourne

Committee may also be contacted through the Trading Shed email address katatradingstore@yahoo.com

Road end of the Odibourne site and at some stage in the future looking to install another storage building for some of our equipment, which is gradually beginning to encroach into the shop space.

With such a positive team like we currently have, we are not about to rest on our laurels and are set to move forward once again and we welcome your continued support.

LILY BROWNJOHN (ALLOTMENT SECRETARY)

THE KATA KAZI was officially opened on Sunday 30th April. A much needed toilet facility for an Allotment site of 7 acres! The membership has been changing over the years and now we have a cross section of very competent lady gardeners and a much younger generation of gardeners in general with young families on site, making the need for such a facility absolutely essential!!! An enthusiastic gathering turned out for the 'Opening' as such, and amidst humour and excitement, the Secretary had the dubious honour of cutting through the pink ribbon. Our new construction was also the subject of a 'naming' competition/ ceremony, and from the many very very clever suggestions, the 'KATA KAZI' was chosen! Once again our thanks go to Pete and his team for the installation and to Trudy for finally getting it off the ground through her research.

ANOTHER LION'S SHOW SUCCESS (Sat June 10th) kicked off our first fundraising effort this year with the steady sale of plants from our once again well placed stand. Reliably as ever, Paula organised the logistics of transporting all our plants to and from the Abbey Fields and the manning of the stand throughout the afternoon. The weather held good for us. We must thank all those who participated in making our Lions Show Event the success it is for we would be quite lost without all the volunteers who arrive early to pick and tie up bundles of rhubarb, transport plants in their cars and trailers, those who arrive at the showground early to stake our pitch and put up the gazebos and stock the display tables, to all of you who take turn in manning the stand or have donated some magnificent plants and cuttings and to Madeleine who shops wisely to put together a mouth-watering hamper for our raffle – and of course to our raffle ticket sellers! Thank-you Paula for organising such a great team.

OPEN DAY AT BEEHIVE HILL (In conjunction with the National Open Gardens Scheme) was held on Sunday June 18th, and once again with Paula and David's organisation, this was executed smoothly with the help of a good team to man the gates and sell some plants. We had 177 visitors through our gates on the day and the total raised across ALL the gardens visited (which included some beautiful gardens in Malthouse and Fieldgate Lane) was £3350.92. Our plant stall raised £83 for KATA and included an early morning rhubarb raid, which contributed to roughly half of the plant sale total- so a big thank you to the Beehive Hill tenants for allowing us to do this. The total raised was matched by a local company who wished to remain anonymous and so the final total raised was £6107.34, to be donated to NGS to distribute accordingly amongst their many worthy charities. As a Committee, we have agreed in principal to participate with NGS in this fund-raising event every year, but should any tenant at Beehive have any concerns, please do let David know and it will be brought into Committee to be discussed.

HEAVIEST CROP OF POTATOES GROWN IN A BUCKET COMPETITION... the very first Weigh-in was held on Sunday 9th July at the Odibourne site. This new competition which was the brainchild of Caroline Faulkner, was very well supported and the turnout on the day was excellent and a lot of fun was had by all. The winners were:

	Plot number		Weight	
1ST	9 ODI	MARTIN POOLE	1626g	(3lbs 9½ oz)
2ND	54 ODI	COLIN BATES	1620g	(3lbs 9½ oz)
3RD	68A ODI	ROBIN & SUE ASHBY	1228g	(2lbs 11½ oz)
4TH	4 ODI	CAROLINE FAULKNER	1226g	(2lbs 11¼ oz)

Such a close margin between 1st and 2nd and then again between 3rd and 4th! A Winners Trophy will be provided by Sarah Ridgeway from Hinton's Nurseries

JUDGING OF PLOTS...

(took place on Tuesday 11th July) Best laid plans and all that... was my first observation, but thanks to Chris, who competently took over at a moment's notice having been thrown in at the deep end, and to our judge Sarah Ridgeway from Hinton's Nursery, who had several tons of turf turn up unexpectedly on the same morning for a big landscaping job, everything miraculously came together and the day was saved –

MAIN COMPETITION WINNERS

Plot number		Points
1ST	22/23 ODI JEN HARRIS & JANE BALLARD	89
2ND	3A S/LANE CHRIS COTON	88½
3RD	16 B/HILL MADELEINE SEXTON	84½

HIGHLY COMMENDED

1ST	52B ODI JUDITH WALMESLEY	78
2ND	20 B/HILL VALERIE & DAVID HOY	76½
3RD =	7 B/HILL STEVE & BRONIA JONES	75½
3RD =	13 B/HILL JANICE OTHEN & DI WILSON	75½
4TH	14 B/HILL LINDA & DAVID PETTIFOR	75

NOVICES

1ST	7B S/LANE MARY-LYNNE & DAVID BLACKBURN	72
2ND	74 ODI CAROLINE & NIGEL WELLS	64 ½
3RD	35B ODI JEFF & CHRISTINE WILLIAMS	63

AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

74 ODI	CAROLINE & NIGEL WELLS
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See following comments from Chris....

Chris firstly accorded a vote of thanks to Alan Savage who provided us with a shortlist of 28 plots. The judging was carried out by Sarah Ridgeway from Hinton's Nurseries. She was able to judge 28 plots over the three sites in just under 5 hours. The British weather was well... 'British with showers and longer spells of rain', for most of the time on site! Jen Harris and Jane Ballard won best plot with their combined plots 22 and 23. Jane had given her original plot up opposite to help Jen after the passing of Jen's husband Ian.

Mims and David Blackburn won best Novice. In their first year of having an Allotment, they have re-built, treated and re-glazed the old wooden greenhouse inherited with the plot, have built a fruit cage and raised beds. They had a wide range of good quality crops growing when judged giving them a healthy score of 72 points.

The award for special achievement goes deservedly to Caroline Wells and her brother Nigel for their plot at Odibourne. Together they have really worked hard to turn around a difficult plot on a slope full of mare's tail. Flowers and raised beds full of veg have made a welcoming sight to behold. Good creativity and design layout make them deserving winners.

JUDGING OF SCARECROWS took place on Tuesday 15th Aug

Our judge, Town Clerk Maggie Field used an array of complimentary phrases when she presented us with her results, but finally summed up her experience with 'I am astonished by the incredibly impressive array of ideas, ingenuity, use of materials and colour that Allotment holders in Kenilworth conjure up for their Scarecrows!' Many thanks to Maggie once again for her support.

CHILDRENS:		Plot No
1ST =	NO 10 / TREES 'R HAY DAN, AMELIA & ELLIOTT BAYNTON	10 ODI
1ST =	THE LORAX ALEX WHITE	71 ODI
2ND	YOUNG GARDENER BUTTERFIELD FAMILY	18A ODI

TRADITIONAL:

1ST	THE SINGING SCARECROW BILL & JACKIE HODGKINSON	25 ODI
2ND	THE SCARE CROW JEN HARRIS & JANE BALLARD	22/23 ODI
3RD	LADY IN BROWN JEANETTA MEADOWS	30B ODI

VERY HIGHLY COMMENDED:

1ST	GOOD INTENTIONS SARAH FALCONER	13A ODI
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NOVELTY:

1ST	SUPERMAN CAROLINE & NIGEL WELLS	74 ODI
2ND =	THE STORK FIONA & ROBERT BENCH	12A ODI
2ND =	THE RECYCLED S/CROW SUE & ROBIN ASHBY	68A ODI
3RD =	OH JEREMY CORBEAN PETER & JENNIFER JONES	18B ODI
3RD =	WHERE'S WHALLEY HEATHER & JOHN DAVIES & JULIE SHARMAN	97 ODI
3RD =	KING NEBU KEN EZZAR & THE HANGING GARDENS OF ODIBOURNE	JENNY & RICHARD HUDSON 99A ODI

VERY HIGHLY COMMENDED:

1ST	FOXY GLOVES MARIE & JOHN GORMLEY	7B ODI
2ND	ST DOTTY LOTTIE DOROTHY HILL	93B ODI

SECRETARY'S CHUCKLE AWARD:

OH JEREMY CORBEAN	PETER & JENNIFER JONES	18B ODI
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All of the above scarecrows were designed and created individually with amazing skill and humour, but maybe some of you just ran out of time and bought one instead just to support our Open Day display. We still appreciate that, and for simply **entering into the spirit of the occasion**, we have also awarded these a **'HIGHLY COMMENDED** (in no particular order):

GROUPY SCARECROWS	THE MILLER FAMILY	100 ODI
NEW KID ON THE BLOCK	KARA SHADBOLT	31 ODI
HIDDEN SCARECROW	YVONNE & ANTHONY EVANS	68 ODI

Another big 'thank you' to those of you who actually missed the judging, but surprised us with impressive Scarecrows which made their debut actually the on Open Day! This included a very strange apparition on the front of plot 6 Odi. We just didn't know which category this one would have fitted into! Polite suggestions only on a postcard please....

But the last word on Scarecrows must go to Dottie Lottie, or this year St. Dottie Lottie (plot 93b Odi). Last year she was poised to go to the great compost bin in the sky, but we note that this year she's proved not quite ready yet and rebelled by coming back to haunt us in her new ghostly form! Perhaps if Dottie would collaborate, we could introduce a new date onto our 'Events' calendar – The Odibourne Ghost Hunting Event? Could be a nice little earner?...

AN IMPORTANT REQUEST FROM YOUR COMMITTEE.....

Much time and effort is spent in organising our competitions, but we seriously have trouble at times trying to identify plot numbers. Could you please make it one of your tasks this Winter to number your plot. If you are not quite sure, then please ask Lily.

OPEN DAY AT ODIBOURNE SITE, Sunday 20th August and was another resounding success and record breaker by all accounts. The day started very early for some of us, and once again thanks to Paula's supervision, gazebos and big tables were put up, gas bottles organised, tables and chairs carted down to the tea tent area. Rhubarb was picked and bundled. Cakes and jams started to arrive as well as our guest beekeeper, who set up his observational hive on site. Tenants donated surplus vegetables to the shop to sell, Hanif brought along 400 samosas and the old fashioned ice cream cart (kindly loaned to us by Geoff Litterick and Maggie Curly) was moved into position ready to be stocked from the freezer. The stepping stones were checked for safety (now a popular feature of the day) and the Pimms tent was stocked and waiting for its first thirsty customers (a big thank you to Andy from The Engine for his help and support as ever). In another break from tradition, the Carnival Princess, Faith Brough was invited to be our guest of honour, and in the end we had the company of both the Princess and the Carnival Queen, Lucy Mills. Faith showed particular interest in our Bee-keeping display. I believe that the cake and jam stand sold out within a very short time and the samosas once again sold out in record time! And a special thank you to young Eleanor and Sebastian (plot 38) for their enterprising fundraising efforts.

This is another of those events which could not take place without the continued support from our many volunteers, who work with us throughout a very long day, and whether you gave great chunks of your day or could manage just a couple of hours, we sincerely thank you all. I believe we had well over 300 visitors to the site in just 2 hours and just as a complimentary comment to Ivan Morrow, what a welcoming sight for our visitors. for on plot 60 (just inside our School Lane gate) was Ivan's wonderful display of multi-coloured dahlias and warm and welcoming array of sun flowers!

In another break from tradition, we will be choosing our own charities to donate to and this year, donations will be made to The Carnival Charities fund and also to Myton Hospice.

TALLEST SUNFLOWER RESULTS....

		Plot no	Height
1ST	GILL & GLEN HUTCHINSON	73	3.58M
2ND	IVAN MORROW	60	3.40M
3RD	MARTIN POOLE	9	3.31M

RENTS ARE DUE ON OR NO LATER THAN 29th SEPTEMBER and for your convenience, Committee members will be available by the shop to enable you to do this hopefully quickly and easily.

There will be no increase again this year and rents are as follows, (part plots pro rata), but if you are not sure what proportion your plot is ½, ¼, ⅓, 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 16th/SUN 17th September

SAT 23rd/SUN 24th September

If you cannot make any of these dates, maybe due to holiday commitments, 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 shop closes on 29th 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 our Chairman Chris, 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 29th October and the orders must please be dropped into Chris at 69 Spring Lane (the house right next to the Spring Lane site)!

NEWS FROM AROUND OUR SITES:

Odibourne..... Following concerns about safety and the deterioration of the narrow track leading down from the 'Engine' entrance to our site, your Committee consulted with neighbouring tenants and a plan was devised to merely shorten the track and move the gate entrance to a lower and safer position. The now redundant top part of the track will be re-landscaped over the course of the Winter months. Many thanks to the team who contributed with their ideas, time and physical effort in rectifying this problem, namely Chris, Robin, Dave and Pete, and tenants Bill and John.

Tenants neighbouring plot 63 may have noticed that this once loved plot is now lying redundant and overgrown. This will remain so until we are able to cut down a dangerously angled sycamore bordering with the Common. We have been granted permission by WDC to do so as it has become a health and safety hazard, so please be patient with us until we can get on with the job once the leaves have fallen.

Lower Ladyes Hill tenants may have noticed a decrease in mole heaps along their track this Summer. We have to thank one of our tenants, Viv Hudson who has helped us using humane methods. Moles cause serious underground disturbance to our water pipe system (never mind that straight row of parsnips)! as well as causing uneven surfaces to our track. This makes mowing extremely difficult and damaging to our lawnmower blades as well as making it hazardous to tenants increasing the risk of broken or twisted ankles. The subsidence problem around the middle of the track is still under observation

Fires and Rat Sightings were also reported towards the Common end of Odibourne! From time to time, we occasionally have these complaints and all complaints of this nature are taken very seriously by the Committee and are followed up. Our Chairman Chris set bait in the reported area where rats were sighted but none was taken. Also he could find no evidence of rat runs in and around that area. However, rats may make their homes and breed in your warm cosy compost bins or wherever else they are not disturbed. Please ensure your compost is turned regularly and that no rubbish is allowed to pile up undisturbed behind your sheds or elsewhere on your plot. Cleanliness is essential!

A relatively new tenant unfortunately fell foul of one of our 'serial' fire complainers recently. As well as complaining to the Town Council, he also revealed himself by hurling abuse at our startled tenant over a gap in the hedge. Please be considerate to our surrounding neighbours. If its warms and sunny, nearby windows may be open and the breeze may be in that direction. Much as most of us enjoy wood smoke, many others do not! Check your fire content is dry and does not contain anything to cause toxic smoke (broken plastic trays or plant pots etc). Remember fires on the allotments are not illegal – but causing nuisance is an offence incurring a hefty fine.

Himalayan Balsam has become invasive along our Odibourne river banks, but please do not try to remove it after the month of June as you will only spread the seeds. For more advice on this topic, please google [gov.uk/invasive plants](http://gov.uk/invasive-plants)

A new gate post and notice boards have also been installed around the site by Chairman Chris as well as notice boards on other sites where needed.

Beehive Hill (primarily the playing field adjoining the site)..... has for many years been a possible target for settlement by travellers or gypsies along with other 'open spaces or parkland' in and around the Warwick District area. That is why a lockable bollard suddenly appeared overnight, bewildering tenants who suddenly could not get vehicular access to their site via our shared access gate. The Committee had reported the gate was hanging badly and were reassured that a stronger gate was in the pipeline anyway, but when WDC suddenly installed the bollard in the gateway without informing anyone, it came as rather a shock to us all! However dialogue has now taken place with WDC and as David has already done, and will continue to keep Beehive Hill tenants up to date with new security and access procedures as they are made available to us.

Spring Lane..... Peace and tranquillity reigns as usual!

SHOP NEWS:

Hello from the shop! We are coming to the end of the shop season but continue to have a steady stream of customers coming through. This would not be possible without our lovely and dedicated group of shop volunteers. Our re-arranging last year seems to have been a success and stock items have remained the same so we're hoping we have found the balance. We are of course being kept stocked up with a variety of second hand tools and accessories thanks to Lily diligently relocating resources around the Allotments from plot holders who have moved on. We have had some great finds. We have put a suggestion box up in the shop for new ideas for next season.

DATES FOR THE SHOP DIARY:

(All dates will go up on the Notice Boards)

OCTOBER 1st SHOP OPENS FOR 1 HOUR ONLY 11-12,
(ONLY FOR REST OF OCTOBER)

OCTOBER 15th CLOSING SHOP BBQ (WE KNOW ITS 2 WEEKS EARLY)!

OCTOBER 29th SHOP CLOSING FOR WINTER

If you would like to volunteer to help out in the shop, with unloading deliveries, general maintenance or events, or to give some time as part of a team to generally keep the Allotments looking beautiful all year round, please let us know, pop into the shop and leave details, email or speak to one of the Committee. Thanks again for all your support

PETE AND TRUDY

Email: katatradingstore@yahoo.com and you can also keep up to date with KATA on facebook

PS Please note that it is unacceptable to dump rubbish/weeds/turf around the woodchip and manure bays. It is the responsibility of the plotholder to dispose of their waste. The small trailer is available to borrow if it helps rather than get your car dirty – but it is to be used entirely at your own risk and to be returned the same day please.

OUR NEXT SHOP MEETING will be held in mid-January 2018. The exact date and venue is still to be arranged. Please keep an eye on our shop notice board in the New Year, but if you are already part of our team, you will most likely be advised by email nearer the time. Newcomers who would like to join our happy team are most welcome to join us

AND STILL TO COME IN 2017:

PUMPKIN WEIGH-IN at The Engine Inn Oct 1st at 12.30pm

Our host for this most enjoyable lunch-time event is landlord Andy Bear who not only sponsors our trophy, but he also hosts the weigh-in event and does us proud by putting on a 'free lunch'. Do come along just for the social side and friendly banter, even if you haven't grown one of our competition pumpkins (purchased from the shop at the end of May). It's a very enjoyable event.

AGM October 19th at the Copper House Club, 7.30 start

We need to hear your constructive views on how we are doing or perhaps what we need to be doing!!! Plus any motions proposed must be received one week prior to the meeting in writing please either through Lily's letter box (r/o plot 51, Odibourne site) or by email to the above email address.

LAST DAY FOR SEED ORDERS Oct 29th Please take completed seed order with payment to Chris at 69 Spring Lane (next to Allotment site)

PRESENTATION EVENING FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17th 7pm for 7.30 start

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

VERY BRIEFLY TO ROUND UP....

You may remember we had criminal damage done to some greenhouses earlier in the year. Thankfully we were able to identify the louts who did this through our camera system around the shop area. We are reassured the boys will not be back!

Sadly we still have to be security alert as one of our tenants had her bike stolen from the far entrance of Lower Ladyes Hills. Unfortunately it was parked just outside the gate for only a few minutes and unfortunately not locked. A hard lesson indeed.

Managing slugs without slug pellets information was thoughtfully passed to us by tenant Ann Banning. Lack of space prohibits detail here, but please go to either www.hedgehogstreet.org or www.slugoff.co.uk or www.snuffles-rescue.com for further info.

Ann is also a rising star amongst us and has just published her first book entitled 'The Dinner Lady and other stories'. A delightfully funny and cleverly written collection of short stories, this can be obtained from the Kenilworth Bookshop. Ann publishes under the name of Ann Renard.

Food waste is an area of concern and the organisation 'Kenilworth All Together Greener' have much to say on the matter and are currently promoting Fruit and Veg sharing. If you would like to help or get involved as an individual, please call Louise on Kenilworth 858158.

And Hinton's Nurseries are promoting some of the interesting tools which were shown on their recent TV appearance on Gardeners World, when the Walled Garden was recently featured. Sarah has decided to stock some of the items such as Apple pickers, Vegetable harvesting knives, Pot tampers and Harvest Trugs, all of which would make interesting gifts. Discounts are available to our members on production of your little green ID card.

AND THE FINAL WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN:

Odibourne Allotments are an important habitat for Wildlife and they provide a link in the chain of green space that follows the river Finham from the Castle through Abbey Fields to the Common. An important resident is the Slow worm, but is it a worm or a snake? Neither, it's a legless lizard given away by its ability to blink. It eats slugs and snails and enjoys sunbathing. They are often found in compost heaps as these are warm from decomposing material. They hibernate from October until March in piles of logs. They can live for up to 20 years, are 30-40 cms long and when adult, can have 6-12 young that are a miniature version of the adult. Their predators are Badgers, Foxes, Cats and even Hedgehogs. They have some defence mechanisms, releasing a foul smell and shedding their tail which continues to wriggle while they make their escape. So please look out for them.

KATA and WART (Warwickshire Amphibian and Reptile Trust) – Your Committee is forging a link with this conservation group to seek advice on managing the wildlife habitat for these species.