



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



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

With temperatures starting to drop, and Autumn just beginning to creep in, we are inevitably coming to the end of another superb growing year on our allotments. Warmer temperatures and more prolonged wet spells seem to have agreed with most of our crops although some hard fruits, namely apples and plums were hit by the frosts earlier in the year, and did not set any fruit. Potato harvests have been good as well as soft fruits, but strangely, many have reported runner beans as being slow or frustratingly hard to germinate this year. Having finally caught up, they are now plentiful and succulent.

Plot changeovers have also slowed down and that was bound to happen at some point when lots of plots have been split and generally people have found that half plots are easier to manage so they don't become despondent and give up or are actually given notice for poor maintenance. We would urge anyone with a full plot primarily at Odibourne to let us know if they would like to downsize rather than battle on with a plot which is too big for them. This helps everyone in the long run, both those on the waiting list and those who are really struggling.

Sadly though, we have lost other tenants who have been poorly, and these have included Pete Reeve and Penny Mitchell from Odibourne and David Robbins from our Spring Lane site. Our condolences go to their families.

And it's been a joyous year for others, with little ones born to John and Jane Heyden, Leon and Amy Boneham and to Selvar and Liy all from Odibourne site, and a belated welcome to little Erin born to Anthony and Claire, who we missed out of our Spring newsletter and who is now expecting her own little brother or sister within a couple of months! Congratulations also to Helen and Louis who got married earlier this year and to our Chairman Chris, who married his partner of 30 years last month!...

We wish you all the very best of everything!

And a request from your Committee...

You may remember that in our last newsletter, we circulated a copy of our proposed Constitution and asked everyone to take a quick look over it so that it could be agreed and adopted at our next AGM. We circulated this so that any unacceptable clauses could be ironed out over the course of this last 12 months and it would hopefully

be passed without a hitch at our next AGM in November this year. So far we haven't heard from anyone, so we are assuming that the document meets with everyone's approval? I feel sure that you will let us know otherwise. It is after all, a model set up by our National Association and can be tailored to meet each Association's individual needs. If you are dissatisfied with it, please don't leave it until the AGM to make your feelings known. This will only further delay implementing the document. We can provide you with another copy if you have mislaid your original one.

So we're keeping up with the times.....

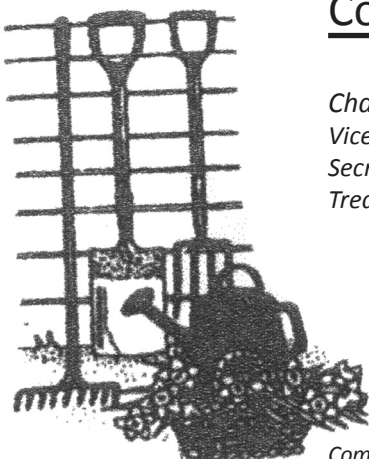
And will very soon have our own website, thanks to Nick Wood, Chris's husband, who is working furiously on it as we speak, and where all these documents will be readily available including copies of our Association Rules and our Tenancy Agreement, should you need to refer to them at any time. Other items of news will appear there as they happen, so we will be able to keep you more quickly informed on events. Notice boards will still carry news of upcoming events and competition results, so don't worry if you are not desperately into technology, we will still do our utmost to keep everyone well informed. Also, for those of you who still wish to receive our little newsletters, these will be produced and distributed as normal, unless you positively do not wish to receive a hard copy. Please just let us know and we will delete you from our distribution list.

And some really important news to benefit the Association and our surrounding Community.....

We recently took delivery of a Defibrillator, jointly funded by ourselves and the Kenilworth Heartsafe group, which was launched last year and comes under the umbrella of Warwickshire Hearts, a locally registered charity. It will benefit both our tenancy and our local community and if you would like to know more about how to operate it should an emergency arise, training can be given to those who wish to apply. Please contact Trudy for information on courses, which are yet to be arranged. Details of these will appear on our notice boards. The defibrillator is situated on the side of our shop and is available to anyone in the locality who dials 999.

Lily Brownjohn, Allotment Secretary

Committee members



			Plot / Site
<i>Chairman</i>	Chris Coton	513268	3a Spring Lane
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Pete Hayes	851382	15b Odibourne
<i>Secretary</i>	Lily Brownjohn	855291	51 Odibourne
<i>Treasurer</i>	Philip Jordan	733407	37a Odibourne
	Ann Barry	857240	70b Odibourne
	Paula Hallam	856480	44 Odibourne
	Trudy Hayes	851382	15b Odibourne
	David Hoy	851396	20 Beehive Hill
	Peter Jones	853930	18b Odibourne
	Catherine Nyman	07980 552963	38 Odibourne

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

And so we embarked on our Centenary Year...

With lots of ideas to make this year something special, and just to kick off the year, in February we invited the Midlands Region of our National Association to host their quarterly meeting in Kenilworth, choosing our well appointed Senior Citizens Club for the venue. According to our Regional Rep John McNabb, we had a good turnout. Our speaker was interesting, enlightening us all about 'Aliens in the Garden' and we were given the opportunity to volunteer to help out at the Gardeners World Live Show in Birmingham – a free day out! I believe that Trudy and Paula volunteered. In line with tradition, our shop re-opened, fully stocked, and we gradually got into the swing of our new gardening season, but some were a bit slower this year as our plot inspections revealed in May! Quite a few of our tenants received letters or a concerned phone call!

June and our Lions Show was soon upon us....

And the usual energetic planning went into the production of plants, picking of rhubarb, organising and loading up of transport, only to be told at the last minute that all had been cancelled due to the fact that the constant rain had made the Abbey Fields unsuitable and dangerous for vehicles and public alike. However, quick thinking and the positive miracle of 'social networking' saved the day and after putting our gazebo and tables up at the School Lane entrance to Odibourne, people flocked in from everywhere and came to buy from our stalls. And so the day was not an entire washout, in fact it was a great success!

The National Open Gardens event at our Beehive Hill site.....

Quickly followed on and the weather couldn't have been more of a contrast. A record number of visitors came through the gates and our plant and rhubarb sales also broke all previous records. Thanks again to Madeleine and David and all the tenants for organising and making the site such a pleasant destination to visit. Many people travel the country to attend such events. And a recent added bonus is that (*News as of today*) we have just been donated a smaller petrol lawnmower, which is narrow enough to use for our 'in-between paths'. This is available for all tenants at the Beehive site to use – just please contact our site rep David Hoy re conditions of use.

And Kenilworth Carnival!!!.....

Was a foray into the unknown, and on a sweltering hot June day, probably one of the hottest, just nine of us dressed in assorted costume of years gone by, yours truly as a scarecrow wielding a pitchfork and our Chairman Chris also as a very smart scarecrow complete with wheelbarrow full of produce, boldly and somewhat brazenly, walked the whole three/ four mile Carnival route around Kenilworth and enjoyed every minute of it – (*I think*)!!! Even more so when it became apparent that we had won the trophy for our 'walking entry' as well as 'best overall entry'. Talk about the lengths some folks will go to, just to let Kenilworth know that we've been around for 100 years! Thanks to Paula Hallam, Ann and Rob Barry, Phil and Steph Allcock, and Caroline Wells with her friend's young grandson, Oscar aged just 4 who were also a part of this epic vision.

July and back to one of our saner events...

Or was it –

The Heaviest weight of potatoes to be grown in a bucket...

So it's just a bit of fun (we're told), although some grown men take it very seriously indeed!!!

And the winners were:

1st	Nick & Nicky Schofield	1,040g
2nd	Nicola & Richard Robinson	930g
3rd	Caroline Wells	916g

Well done everyone!

And to the more serious business of Best Plots...

Our plot judging is an important and integral part of our Association and definitely raises the standard of our plots as tenants strive to do the best that they possibly can.

And the winners were:

		Points achieved
1st	Madeleine Sexton	16 Beehive Hill 92
2nd	Lily Brownjohn	51 Odibourne 89 ½
3rd	Nigel Wells	74 Odibourne 86 ½

Highly Commended:

1st	David & Joan Robbins	5a Spring Lane	85 ½
2nd	Keith & Joan Rockett	6 Beehive Hill	79
3rd	Jane Ballard & Jen Harris	23 Odibourne	75
4th=	Sandra Clarke	2b & 3b S/Lane	74 ½
4th=	John Travers	6 Odibourne	74 ½

Novices:

1st	Canzious Joubert	58b Odibourne	77
2nd	Nicola & Richard Robinson	58a Odibourne	65
3rd	Stevie Muir & Christine Davies	75a Odibourne	58½

Awards for Special Achievement:

There were four outstanding tenants this year worthy of a mention simply for the way that they have turned their plots around, having recently inherited plots which were desperate for some TLC!

These were *Christopher McCarthy & Claire Phillips, John Watson, Hayley Molesworth and Margaret Carpenter*. Well done to all of you and we expect to see you next year in the higher categories?

One or two have made the observation quite rightly, that we do a pre-selection of the best plots in the immediate run up to the actual judging day, which is totally necessary, as our judge would be on site for days and nights if she had to whittle out every single plot in one go. This is a laborious task and we are grateful to Sue and Robin Ashby for doing this time consuming job for us. However, it may have caught some of you 'last minuters' out, as some leave weeding and labelling until the night before. Please note that the lion's share of marking is loaded onto the number of crops actually grown, so no amount of weeding and labelling will make that much difference if you only grow half a dozen crops. However in fairness to all, next year, we will announce a cut-off date for when the pre-selection deadline is due. *And a little tip from the Judge: Extra 'water conservation marks' can be gained if you simply mulch your crops with either-grass cuttings or wood chippings, the latter to be well rotted though. This prevents loss of water due to evaporation.*

We are most grateful to Sarah Ridgeway from Hintons Nurseries who once again performed this much valued task for us.

And our Big Celebration BBQ...

Thank you to everyone who turned out to help us celebrate. We had thought that there might be around 200 tenants and invited guests, but there was well over that estimated number. Not a morsel of food or drink was left over!!! Thanks to everyone's support and to those who made it happen. We must also thank our Town Council who split the cost of the outside catering with us. A big thanks to the Chair of WDC, Cllr George Illingworth who gave an address and who has been a staunch supporter of our Allotments for many, many years, and also to Councillor John Dearing, leader of Kenilworth's new Town Council who helped judge our best 'period costume entry'. The winner of that competition was John and Katherine Phillips and their daughters, Kathryn, Caroline and Hannah. Brilliant costumes, as were many, many more and thank-you to all who entered into the spirit of the day. It was almost an impossible task for our judge to choose just one winner. Thanks to our caterers 'A bit of a do' and to Andy from the Engine who provided the bar and made a generous donation to us from the proceeds.

August and National Allotment Week followed, and our Open Day was ...

Yet another huge success. We registered well over 300 paying visitors to our site plus children and invited guests. The weather was perfect and our Scarecrows entertained everyone. A couple of new attractions were on site including a young man dressed as a tree! So lifelike that he startled many when he actually moved, and local author, Elizabeth Lofthouse demonstrated her illustration techniques and textile work. It was all great fun. Our new Mayor, Alison Firth joined us and thoroughly enjoyed her visit, made even more enjoyable with a jug of Pimms in hand. Ali has an affinity for the allotments as she used to be a plot holder from 2004 to 2009. She said she would love to come back and join us again when time permits. Some interesting and helpful facts relating to hedgehogs were also distributed by another tenant. Thanks to all who helped us to raise funds including Hanif with his legendary Samosas, to Katherine Phillips and her Bowen Technique demonstration, our visiting beekeepers, raffle stand, cake stall and plants/produce stands, the ice cream stand, Pimms and tea tents, and to young Sebastian with his 'Archery competition' set up on plot 38 - a very enterprising young man. A truly magnificent effort all round.

And our Scarecrow winners in all categories:

Children's:

1st= Harry Potter	Amelia, Daniel and Elliot Baynton
1st= Harry Potter & the Deathly Marrows	Amy & Molly Weir

Adult's Traditional:

1st Grandad	John Travers
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Adult's Topical:

1st The Great Greta	Ann Cordery
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Adult's Novelty:

Allotment Evolution	Nigel Wells
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Secretary's Chuckle Award:

Pondering	Hanif & Alice Ladha
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Our thanks go to our Town Clerk, Maggie Field, who judged our Scarecrows and on who's advice we separated out our old Topical/Novelty category into two separate categories as there are were so many clever and amusing subjects to choose from.

So August draws to an end...

And our sunflowers are on display in all their glory. *And the winners are:*

1st	Martin Poole	3.78m
2nd	Gill Hutchinson	3.58m
3rd	Bill Hodgkinson	3.1m

Into September and almost the end of another Allotment Year...

And just a quick reminder that

The new Allotment years' rents are due on or before 29th Sept.

For your convenience, we will be holding our rent taking sessions over the following two weekends: **Sat 21st & Sun 22nd Sept** and the following weekend, **Sat 28th & Sun 29th Sept**. (At the Odibourne site during Shop opening hours) We would ask you all please, at the same time to take a look at our database details which we hold for you to check that the information we have is still relevant. This includes your correct home and contact details as well as your availability to give help either in the shop, with shop deliveries or emergency shop cover, with Maintenance or with our Events. Please be aware that it is as important to de-register as it is to register.

Please remember that any rents outstanding after the 29th Sept will be subject to a £5.00 late payment charge. But – if you are planning to be on holiday or simply can't make any of those dates for whatever reason, then contact Lily, and other arrangements can be made. More importantly, please do not pay your rents into the shop as this by-passes our book-keeping system.

Our Kings Seed Catalogues & Tickets for Presentation evening...

Will also be made available for collection from the shop over those two weekends. You then have until the end of October (27th) to fill your seed order forms in. Please deliver them to Chris at 69 Spring Lane – right next to our Spring Lane Allotment site. Superb quality seeds and almost half price value and your orders are delivered to your door by Chris.

September into October and Apple Press Days.....

These are now an established part of our Autumn season and we have three dates for you to put into your diaries:

These will take place between 10am – 2pm, Sept 22nd & 29th and Oct 6th. Don't let your stocks of apples (fallers or otherwise) go to waste. Just bring them along and juice them!!!

News from our Shop as we move towards October.....

Our shop is going from strength to strength and our range of products is increasing. Pete & Trudy tell us that we will no longer be selling the traditional slug pellets, as per new legislation, but please be reassured, that they are seeking an effective alternative. Stock now includes peat free compost and that is selling extremely well. Another great asset to help everyone is our hiring of garden machinery. A rotavator, tiller, strimmer or petrol lawnmower can all be hired for a small fee. These are accessible during shop opening times subject to availability or contact Pete to arrange hire out of shop opening times.

Shop Volunteers /end of season and re-opening times:

The shop will be closing down for the end of the season on Sunday 27th October and this is also the last day for Seed orders (as stated above).

The shop will re-open on 15th February 2020 – weather dependant, (and I'm sure that some complimentary coffees and home-made biscuits can be arranged to tempt you down!!!)

More volunteers are always needed for the Shop Open season, which runs from mid Feb until the end of October. If you are tempted and haven't already registered an interest on your application forms, please contact Trudy direct or let us know on your chosen rent paying day. *It's a brilliant way to get to know everyone and it's a very sociable and friendly environment.*

Essential Maintenance – Willow coppicing & hedges:

Whether you have registered your names on your application forms, or at our Rent taking days to assist us with site Maintenance, and if you can help with our willow coppicing at the Odibourne site, would you please contact Pete Hayes if you can help!!! Work will take place between 10am and 2pm, on October 19th, and October 26th and 27th. Apologies in advance as this may temporarily inconvenience some tenants' plots.

New Centenary Plot numbering Competition...

The deadline for any entries for 'Number it' is October 1st. A date for judging has not yet been set, but it will be shortly after that deadline. We are delighted to have Helen Clues from The Farthing Gallery in the Old High Street as our independent judge. Any queries, please contact Paula.

A Visit from Thorns School...

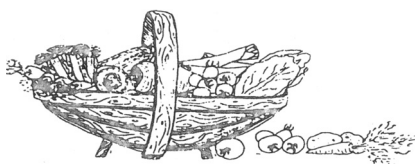
Is being planned for 3rd October at the Odibourne site. It was brilliant that so many of you were down coincidentally on that corresponding day last year. If you are around on that date this year from mid-morning, it would be lovely if you would interact with them once again. (If rained off, the visit will take place the following week).

Eco Fayre at St John's Church, Saturday 12th October...

To be held between 10am and 2pm. We have agreed to participate in/support this event. For details and if you would like to help/get involved, please contact either Paula or Trudy

Our much loved Pumpkin Competition Sunday 13th October 12.30pm...

Will be held at The Engine Inn, and Andy, our wonderful host will as usual put on a light lunch for us. This is an ideal opportunity for those who won trophies last year to please return them for re-engraving. Bring along your prized pumpkins however big or small and join in the fun and banter.



Reminders.....

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 17th October

At our new venue, The Abbey Club, 4 Abbey Hill. Entrance is off Priory Road, and the parking is excellent. Reminder that our new constitution will hopefully be put in place.

Presentation Evening

Friday 15th November

Please note that we also have a new venue for this annual event. It will now be held at the Sports and Social Club, Upper Rosemary Hill, Kenilworth. Start time 7pm for 7.30. (Tickets available now £3.00 in advance or £3.50 on the door – Contact Paula)

Miscellaneous bits and bobs.....

Fires and Noisy Machinery: We are so lucky to have this wonderful open air asset, our Allotment land, but please remember that we have to share this open space with surrounding neighbours (especially at Odibourne). Some of our neighbours object to the noises our garden machinery makes or our fires, so please be considerate not to create large smokey bonfires by observing the advice given by the Environmental Health. See our notice boards for guidance.

Our rules are clear regarding machinery. No starting them up before 8am, Monday to Saturday or before 10am on Sundays. Evenings are flexible, but consideration should be given to young children trying to get to sleep.

Caroline Rowe would like to thank all those who responded to her request for rhubarb in the Spring. She was fund-raising for Ovarian Cancer and your contributions helped towards her magnificent £1250 total!

Please support Sarah at Hinton's Nursery and plant Centre...

She devotes a lot of time to our Association, so please give something back if you can. Don't forget to take your little green 'discount' card with you. She has sent me the following list: Fruit trees, green manures, wildflower seed (including the all-important yellow rattle (to be sown in Autumn). Spring flowering bulbs, fleece and bubble wrap, Winter bedding and baskets, Christmas potatoes (already in stock), plus Winter onions and soft neck/hard neck garlic (due later in September). Bare root hedging (late November) Christmas trees (5 varieties) Door wreaths, Bird Food, and Bonsai!!!!

Remember our break-ins on the Odibourne site a few months back?.... I am told that one of them is now 'inside doing time'. He was caught and handed over to another force and 'done' for far more serious offences. Nice one.

I have a waiting list from tenants who want greenhouses!.... Please contact Lily if you know of any

Hedgehogs – Thanks to one of our tenants at Open Day, we have loads of tips to help them survive.... But not enough space here! Please consult our notice boards for advice and tips. And ask Lily for a personal copy if you would like one – or- I shall leave some in the shop to pick up.

Canvas Bags... We are very excited about the new bags we have for sale and are so grateful to Karen Pittaway for letting us use her Allotment picture design on them. Bags are £3.00 each and would make wonderful Christmas presents. Contact Paula or Trudy if you would like to purchase any even after the shop has closed for the season.

Allotment predators... Peter Jones gives the following simple advice to newer tenants who maybe are not aware that we can come under attack from pigeons on our cabbages, badgers on sweetcorn and carrots as well as slugs etc. For the former, he suggests chicken wire or other mesh to fend them off. But when asked for a slug remedy, the obvious one was a beer trap, but then realistically thought, what a waste of good beer! *Any other suggestions out there please!?*