

*Chairman: Stuart Walker 01759 303458*

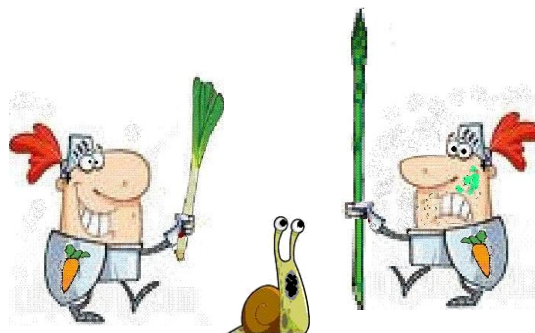
*Acting Secretary: Trish Clarkson 01759  
303437 address: 18 Church Lane Flats, Church  
Lane Pocklington YO42 2BL  
e-mail:pockallotassoc@yahoo.co.uk*

*Treasurer: Claire Hamilton Plot 19a*

*Town Council representative: Alex Petrie*

*Horticultural Society representative: Martina  
Timbs*

*Committee members: Tony Sawyer Plot 8,  
Keith Houseman Plot 42, Lance Gladstone  
Plot 89a, John Webster Plot 72.*



## Issue 3 November

It really does not seem possible that another three months have passed by. I seem to be as busy in the garden as ever and with daylight hours shortening never seem to have enough time to finish the tasks. The site is looking restful, and there are lots of comments about the extended season this year, some are still harvesting tomatoes, some a second flush of summer raspberries and the autumn fruiterers seem to last forever. A well satisfied sigh of harvest sums it up. I hope everyone has had a successful year and is now looking forward to studying their seed catalogues and planning for next spring. Those of us that try to crop throughout the year will be hoping for cooler weather as will those wishing to move dormant perennials. The balmy conditions are playing havoc with our brassicas, having survived the onslaught of the cabbage white, now we have clouds of whitefly. All in a year's gardening, I suppose you could get a little despondent at times, but the optimism of determined gardeners can never be underestimated.

*Trish Clarkson* **Editor**

### *From the Chairman*

November already, It does not seem that we have been running the Allotment Association

probably be after the first AGM to be held in January 2010, notice of which is in this Newsletter.

I would therefore at this stage thank your committee for the hard work and support given to each other in all matters, some contentious, some not so contentious. This brings me nicely on to a problem which we inherited on take over from the Town Council in May and that is sub-letting (paragraph 4(g) of your tenancy agreement) which states "The tenant shall not assign the tenancy nor sub-let or part with the possession of any part of the allotment garden".

We know there are anomalies on the site, however the whole committee at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009 decided upon the following course of action. An amnesty has been called which will last until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and is offered to any tenant who allows another person/persons to use their plot. We are not referring here to anyone who helps the tenant garden part of their plot, or to tenants who are allowing another person to garden a small part of their plot as long as both tenant and helper accept there will be no right of inheritance. The amnesty is offered to anyone who does not garden their allotment or part thereof and are reliant on another person/persons to garden

it for them. If you and the sub-tenant have some agreement or understanding that the plot will become yours if or when the tenant does eventually officially resign their tenancy please arrange to make the committee aware of your status. Please write to the Chairman (hand your letter to any committee member) stating either that you intend to garden the plot which you are the official tenant of from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 or that you wish to relinquish your tenancy and allow your sub-tenant (include name address etc) to take on the tenancy in their own name from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. There is one further stipulation to the amnesty and that is if the sub-tenant already holds a tenancy for another plot on the site the transfer will not be honoured by the committee. If you already hold a plot or half plot and you want more ground you can of course put your name on the waiting list, but please be aware priority will be given to those on the list who do not yet have a plot to garden. At present they number over 50 so it will be a long wait.

We are aware that this subject is contentious and people may wish to make a point of it at the AGM but we as a committee are trying to give the residents of Pocklington access to an allotment where required. This is a very difficult task as land is at a premium, our community is expanding rapidly and allotment gardening is today far more attractive than even ten years ago. I hope this report will give 'food for thought'.

One piece of good news is that the rent will remain the same in 2010 as for 2009, but the committee are reviewing the situation for 2011, especially with regard to expenditure on water, more on which you can read later.

In the meantime, I would like to wish every plot holder a Merry Xmas and a Healthy New Year.

*Stuart Walker* Chairman

### *The Secretary*

It is with regret that we have to announce that Jon has found it necessary to stand down as secretary. Trish Clarkson has agreed to act in his place until January. Contact details have been changed to help things run smoothly I hope! until the New Year. Jon's tireless drive and enthusiasm will be greatly missed and I am sure every one of us wishes to thank him for all his hard work. Hope we may see you back at the helm next year Jon meanwhile I hope to keep us on course.

### *The Treasurer*

Claire has provided the following information for us, thanks Claire for all your hard work this year.

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

##### **Water Bills**

So far the Association has received two sets of water bills the details are below. The first bill (July 2009) only covered a period of 2 months this was because the Association had only taken over responsibility for the bills from May 2009, bills now come quarterly and cover a three month period.

<b>North Road</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>South Road</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Period to</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Period to</b>	<b>£</b>
02.07.2009	107.59	02.07.2009	92.53
14.10.2009	97.38	14.10.2009	63.96
	<b>204.97</b>		<b>156.49</b>

##### **The cost of running Pocklington Allotment Association**

In order to keep all our plot holders up to date with how the Association funds are being

managed a breakdown of funds spent to date (end of October 2009) is detailed below.

On taking over from Pocklington Town Council the Association received **£1,634.67** in funds. This is the entire income for the Association until rents are due in January 2010.

Breakdown of monies spent so far –

<b>Stationary</b>	£91.16 (about £30 is for start up costs – accounts book, receipt book, cash tin etc.)
<b>Postage</b>	£50.58
<b>Insurance</b>	£62.13 (this will be due again in January 2010)
<b>Trophies/Judging</b>	£56.72
<b>Website</b>	£19.02
<b>Meeting rooms</b>	£56.00 (paid for until January 2010)
<b>Trolley</b>	£22.98 (for moving the 1000 gallon water tanks)
<b>Water</b>	£ 361.46
<b>Total funds remaining</b>	<b>£ 914.62</b>

Some plot holders have asked for an idea of the actual cost of producing the newsletter we are aiming to try and work out an actual cost per copy during the production of this newsletter and will report on this at the AGM in January 2010.

### Rents

Rents are due in January 2010 rates will continue at the same rate £30 for a full plot and £20 for a half plot. If rents are paid before the end of January there will be the usual reduction of £3 for full plot and £2 for a half plot.

Rents can be paid by cash or cheque (made payable to 'The Pocklington Allotment Association'). The Treasurer along with other committee members will be collecting rents and renewing tenancy agreements at the following venues –

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010 10am – 12 noon  
Horticultural Society Hut

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2010 10am – 12 noon  
Horticultural Society Hut

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010 10am – 12 noon  
Horticultural Society Hut

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010 10am – 12 noon  
Horticultural Society Hut

Also at the AGM on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 from 6.30pm until the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

**Please do not forward payments to Pocklington Town Council** we know old habits die hard!!!

Unfortunately if your rent is not received by the end of January 2010 it will be assumed you no longer wish to be a member of the Association or to renew the tenancy of your allotment. If you have any extenuating circumstances that prevent your payment, prior to the end of January 2010 please explain in writing to the Treasurer. We will see what can be done.

### *Keith's Top Tips*

I am really pleased with this! I finally managed to persuade Keith Houseman to bring his column to the Newsletter as well as doing his articles for the 'Pocklington Post'. So here is a format where Keith will give you some tips for the following three months November – February.

**November**

Stake Brussels sprouts to keep upright as this makes them easier to pick and stops them blowing over in the winter months, if done in early autumn before sprouting starts to mature it can help prevent the buttons from blowing. Tie the stalk to the stakes or canes with soft string top and bottom, don't forget to use cane caps or old yoghurt pots to stop you damaging your eyes.

Remove fallen and yellowing lower leaves as this helps air to flow around the plants and prevents fungal disease, also allows frost to get to the buttons, they taste better, add the leaves to the compost bin.

Start harvesting sprouts when tight and walnut sized, spacing and growing conditions can affect the size. Pick sprout buttons from the bottom of the stalk upwards, this is where they mature first, this is also where they first start to blow, snap them off with a sharp downward tug. Pick a few sprouts from each stalk until half way up the stalk then remove the growing point of the plant; this encourages the tiny sprouts at the top to develop.

A few varieties to look out for: Maximas Noisette earlies, Cascade, Braveheart lates.

Rhubarb is a hardy perennial which grows best in a sunny site with a PH level of 5.0 – 6.5; it will tolerate most conditions apart from water logged soils. The bed should be prepared before planting. Dig the ground deeply incorporating well rotted manure or garden compost, remove all perennial weed as you dig, rake in 3 – 4 oz of fertilizer just before planting.

Obtain plants from garden centres or nurseries, or propagate from established plants at least three years old, divide roots with a knife and spade making sure each piece has a bud. Plant November or February/March leaving 3ft between plants,

the buds should be just below the surface. Firm in and water in dry conditions.

**December**

Start winter digging; pick dry days when the soil isn't wet or frozen. Dig over and leave the soil, rough, the frost will break down the clods in winter. Dig in annual weeds and remove perennial weeds such as docks, couch grass, bindweed, etc. Add well rotted manure or garden compost for crops such as brassicas peas and beans onions. Manure can be added for potatoes or added at planting time. Root crops such as parsnips and carrots don't need manure as this can cause forking and damaged roots. Don't rush the job, ½ - 1 hour a day will be less strain on your back.

Add guttering and fall pipe to sheds and greenhouses to collect rain water in water butts or 1,000 litre tanks, rain water is better for plants than tap water, water in butts or tanks warm up on sunny days and doesn't shock plants like cold tap water.

Now the greenhouse is almost empty, clear out all the plants and put in cold frames if necessary, empty out seed trays, pots, watering trays, etc. Wash down with warm, soapy water. Scrub down staying with a good disinfectant such as Jeyes fluid. Wash down glass inside and out and glazing bars, armillatox does a good job. Now is a good time to replace broken or cracked panes. Clean gutters or fallen leaves and algae stains. Empty water butts and scrub out, replace with tight-fitting lid all this can help keep the water clean. Always wear waterproof clothing and rubber gloves, make sure the electrical supply is isolated and covered with polythene.

**January**

Protect spring cauliflower, sprouting broccoli, spring cabbage with netting to stop pigeons

doing a lot of damage, stripping leaves from the plants. Pigeons are hungry birds in the winter months especially when the snow is on the ground, brassicas are easy pickings.

Check over stored potatoes, onions, apples, pears, etc and discard any rotten specimens you come across to the bin.

Make a list of things you need for the coming season canes, fleece, fertilizer, potato sets, onion sets, etc, and of to the garden centre. Bear in mind garden clubs and societies can offer savings.

Seed potatoes of the first earlies and second earlies need placing in a bright place e.g. greenhouse, potting shed so they develop good strong spouts before planting. This gets them into early growth ready for the season ahead. Place tubers in wooden seed boxes, seed trays or egg boxes, set the tubers on end with their eyes uppermost. If tubers are in to darker place shoots will become long and spindly, also watch out for frosts as this will damage shoots, cover with layers of newspaper or hessian sacks/blankets.

A few varieties to try; **First Earlies**, Swift, Lady Chrystal, Foremost, **Second Earlies**, Maris Bard, Kestrel, Wilja and Nadine.

### *Have Your Say - Agenda for AGM*

The AGM will be held at the United Services Club on Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 7.30pm. Apologies to anyone having objections to the venue but it is central and about the only place large enough to accommodate all our members. Claire Hamilton and Trish Clarkson will be there from about 6.30pm to enable members to renew their tenancies on payment of their rent.

- Chairman will welcome members and call meeting to order.
- The election of the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and committee members will commence. All posts

will be elected by nomination and seconded by Association members. Please do bear in mind though that certain posts require computer skills and all require a lot of time which has to be given freely. There are three posts to be re-elected, Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Three committee posts to be re-elected, and two committee member posts vacant. To help keep momentum on the night please have your proposals and seconds ready.

- Treasurers Report
- Secretary's Report
- Other business, changes to Constitution rules etc. If you have any proposals to bring to the AGM please forward them in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to meeting. This is the only way we can effectively structure time at the meeting to discuss and vote upon your issues.
- Chairperson will close the meeting.

### *What's New Book Review*

Here is another gem that came my way recently. **Salad Leaves for All Seasons** Organic Growing From Pot to Plot, Charles Dowding. If salads are your thing then this book is for you, it's packed with tasty goodies from sowing times through best methods of cultivation, right on to harvest with loads of tasty recipes. As I began my journey through this book I must admit to thinking that there would not be much I didn't know about. I am a big salad fan and would eat it every day either as a side dish or a main. It was not long before I had to eat my words, there are some really exciting things going on in here, how about 'Mustard Yorkshire Puddings' or

‘Autumn Brassica Leaves with Herring and Ham’. All are set out in a month by month format and there are some lovely photos as well. Charles Dowding’s growing methods are organic; the book is printed on 100% re-cycled paper and published by Green Books. Ticks all the boxes for me – **Editor**.

### *Round Up*

To spray or not to spray that is the question! If you feel you must please bear the following in mind. Spraying the edges of paths may stop certain plants creeping on to your plot, but by killing the root system you will destroy the stability of the path edges, eventually the paths creep and you end up with a situation where they have to be replaced. Which will take you more time digging out some unwanted plants or re-laying a path? Please ensure that the spray remains on your plot, wind drift, turning round whilst finger is still on trigger etc., may lead to you tagging your neighbours crops. Understandably they are not likely to be pleased with that idea. One final little thought what you may see as a weed or rubbish may be your neighbour’s salad bowl or poultry/rabbit food and if it is growing on the path or on their plot they may wish to crop it. Please be considerate.