

# Kingston Federation of Allotment Gardeners

News Sheet No 9

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kfag.org.uk

Working together for Kingston's allotments

## Groveland Way to pursue voluntary management

At their recent AGM the Groveland Way Allotment Association (GWAA) voted to proceed towards V.M.

The GWAA was set up a couple of years ago at the 52 plot site in New Malden. Since its inauguration the site has improved tremendously. This is down to the hard work of their committee, including the Site Liaison Volunteer, monitoring the plots and ensuring vacancies are speedily dealt with. Hands-on management by people regularly on the site has once again proved to be the most effective way forward.

There is no doubt that the GWAA committee have shown they are more than capable of taking on the management role from Quadron Services; this will enable the site to reap the benefits of an income which can be spent on further improving the site.

KFAG hopes that with a reasonable lease offer from the Council the plotholders will support their committee to take on the full management role.

From the GWAA committee: "Groveland Way Allotments and the Association were spurred on by the efforts of Quadron in clearing a number of seriously overgrown plots in 2010. This initial effort enabled the newly formed Allotment Association to encourage first time allotment

holders onto the site. The newly found enthusiasm led Groveland Association itself to clear even more of the ground and get close to a fully let site.

The interesting combination of "veteran" allotmenters meeting head to head with inexperienced but keen newcomers has been particularly beneficial. With a wealth of experience being handed down to those new to the site, and willing hands volunteering to clear up inherited rubbish, has meant that a really strong camaraderie has developed which has broadened into social functions where neighbours can meet and chat and exchange views and ideas.



In 2012 Groveland Way Allotments organised two BBQs, one in early summer and one for Bonfire Night and, in between time, a Tallest Sunflower and Biggest Pumpkin competition was held for our younger growers, but grown-ups were allowed to enter too! In 2011 and 2012 Groveland held two plant sales which helped populate the plots of new arrivals as well as old hands wishing to try something different.

There are a number of projects in the pipeline which could be self-financed in the event that

Groveland does eventually take up the challenge of Voluntary Management."



KFAG are happy to advise and support any site interested in voluntary management. We have information leaflets which are available from our secretary on request and are always willing to answer general questions about self management.

### The Federation aims to:

- Promote and encourage allotment gardening in the Borough of Kingston upon Thames.
- Provide information, support and advice to sites considering voluntary management of their Allotments.
- Build relationships within and between the allotment sites so that ideas and experience can be shared.

For general allotment enquiries and information sheets about setting up a Plot holders' Association and Voluntary Management of allotment sites please contact the Secretary:

[gloriawallis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gloriawallis@hotmail.co.uk)  
Tel: 020 8942 9686

## CONGRATULATIONS JOAN!

*Joan McConn, a founder and committee member of both K FAG and Addison Gardens Allotment Association and well known locally, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2012.*



*This award was reintroduced last year in honour of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and will be given to about 300 people annually for services to their local communities.*

*Joan's award was for services to the community in Kingston-upon-Thames, in particular her work for the Learn English at Home Charity, Kingston Tour Guides, Kingston Federation of Allotment Gardeners and Addison Gardens Allotment Association, Kingston Magistrates (now South West London Magistrates), St John's Parish Hall, the Rose Theatre and Transition Town Kingston.*

***It is very encouraging that involvement with allotment gardening (amongst many other things!) was considered for an award and Joan is a worthy recipient.***

## K FAG Project at Kingston Road –One Year On

For an update on the project plots please see our website . <http://www.kfag.org.uk/kfag-allotments-project-at-kin/>

For the full story of building the corrals see <http://www.kfag.org.uk/corrals-project-at-kingston-ro/>

## Corrals for woodchip and manure built at Kingston Road Allotments



*Dudley and Simon get started on setting out the framework for the Corral*



*Patricia and Virginia begin nailing the planks to the framework*

During the summer a joint venture was undertaken to build woodchip and manure corrals at Kingston Road allotment site. It was planned and organised by K FAG, generously funded by Quadron Services and the labour provided by plotholders from the site.



*PCSO visitors join in and give a hand*

Lucy Launder, Chair of Kingston Road Allotment Assoc. and site SLV said "a big thank you to everyone who helped, we couldn't have done it without everyone's willing and cheerful participation a job well done!

