

Kingston Federation of Allotment Gardeners

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Working together for Kingston's allotments

KINGSTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS - VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT IS THE WAY FORWARD!

Kingston Road Allotment Association decided at their AGM earlier this year that voluntary management of their 42 plot site is the way forward for them. A proposal to go voluntary managed was voted in and the Council has been informed of their plans.

Since the inauguration of their Association a few years ago the site has improved considerably, all plots are let and worked and there is a good sense of 'community'. Several social occasions have been organised and well attended and the ploholders are now keen to take on the management of their site and become independent.

Lucy Launder, chairperson of the Kingston Road Association, said "It has been a long and often frustrating journey to reach our goal but as Chairperson of the KRAA I am looking forward to leading the Kingston Road site towards VM. We have a very strong committee now in place with many keen and proactive members in the association who are all positive about helping us towards achieving our goal to take the Kingston Road allotment site to Voluntary Management."



Newts on a site—April 2014

RBK Tree Survey

The Council plan to survey all of their trees on allotment sites over this summer for health and safety purposes. This will not include fruit trees etc growing on plots. Voluntary managed sites will be contacted when the Council's tree officer is ready to inspect each of the sites. Contacts' details have been collected by K FAG and passed on to the Council.

COMMUNITY RECEPTION AT CITY HALL, LONDON

A reception was held recently, hosted by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, to celebrate the importance of community.

Various voluntary organisations in Kingston-upon-Thames, Richmond and Hounslow were invited to send a representative to this event in recognition of their contribution to the community. Joan McConn and Karol Smal attended to represent K FAG and were pleased to get the opportunity to talk to the Mayor about allotments in Kingston.

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
Tel: 020 8942 9686

PTO



Rob's Plot

8
March
2014
then
3
weeks
later on
1 April

*Addison
Gardens
Allot-
ments*



OAK TREE SURVEY

The Forestry Commission has funded Southampton University to co-ordinate an inspection of oaks as part of a national mapping of oak processionary moth infestations. They recently inspected the oaks on Addison Gardens Allotment site. Thankfully, no signs of the moth were found.

There have been outbreaks of Oak processionary moth in West and South-West London and the Bromley/Croydon area of South London.

The caterpillars of the moth are a threat to Oak trees as well as human and animal health. They have a distinctive habit of moving in nose-to-tail processions in late spring and early summer – this is how they got their name. They live in and feed on oak trees.

The caterpillars build distinctive white, silken webbing nests in oak trees, leaving white silken trails on the trunks and branches in early summer.

The undistinctive adult moth is brown and very similar to other harmless species. They lay their eggs on smaller twigs and branches in oak trees from mid to late summer.

Oak processionary moths can strip whole trees bare of leaves threatening the health of the trees. The caterpillars are covered in thousands of tiny hairs containing an irritating substance which can cause itchy skin rashes if people come into contact with them. They can, less commonly, also cause breathing difficulties, sore throats and eye problems if they are touched or are blown around on the wind.

The official advice from the Forestry Commission is not to approach or touch nests or caterpillars and to call an expert if you see a nest which needs removing. Sightings of the moths, the caterpillars and the nests should always be reported to the Council or the Forestry Commission. For further information and to report a sighting, go to the Forestry Commission's website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/oakprocessionarymoth>



Rob Bartlett's plot (*above*) illustrates what you can do with a little help from your friends!

TIPS

COMPOST

Did you know? Scrunched up newspaper or cardboard egg boxes add air pockets to your compost and help the microbes thrive!

POTATOES

Potatoes contain loads of vitamin C and are one of the healthiest foods around. Get them in as soon as possible..

TRADING HUTS

Did you know we have trading huts on some allotment sites in Kingston. Potting compost, seeds, fleece etc are available at very competitive prices. A small annual membership fee is payable and you do not need to be a plotholder.

See KFAG website for details

<http://www.kfag.org.uk/trading-huts-and-supplies/>