

Kingston Federation of Allotment Gardeners

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Working together for Kingston's allotments



Its Spring—back to work!

Kingston In Bloom 2016 – Best allotment

Anna Gorska was awarded the certificate for winner of the best allotment category in last summer's Kingston in Bloom competition. Anna has a plot on the Addison Gardens site in Surbiton which she has worked for three years.

This was the first time that allotments have been included as a separate category in Kingston in Bloom; it is encouraging as it recognises the important contribution they make to the Borough.

If you are proud of your allotment and would like to enter this year's competition all you will need to do is submit a photograph of it with the entry form. KFAG will forward information about this year's competition to all Voluntary Managed sites and to individuals on the KFAG mailing list as soon as we receive it from the Council.

Proposed NAS London Region

The National Allotment Society AGM in June will be asked to approve the formation of a London Region. We have particular problems—shortage of sites, vulnerability to development due to land shortages etc.

Superhighways Impact Aloud 2016 Conference

KFAG won a 2 hours free photo shoot from Andrew Horwitz Photography. We hope to show the results in the next issue and on our website. Superhighways have helped allotment sites and many other local voluntary organisations and charities to design and maintain websites and benefit from new technology. Contact KFAG for more info.

London Allotment Officers Forum.

We continue to share our self-management model with representatives and staff from many London boroughs.

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

Idverde – The New Name for Quadron Services

In 2016, Quadron was purchased by idverde, Europe's largest maintenance and construction company, who also own grounds maintenance company The Landscape Group.

Since February 2006 Quadron had been responsible for all grounds maintenance and associated activities within the Royal Borough of Kingston including direct managed (non-voluntary managed) allotment sites, of which there are currently 9.

This change should not affect the day to day running of your allotment site and the Quadron personnel remain the same.

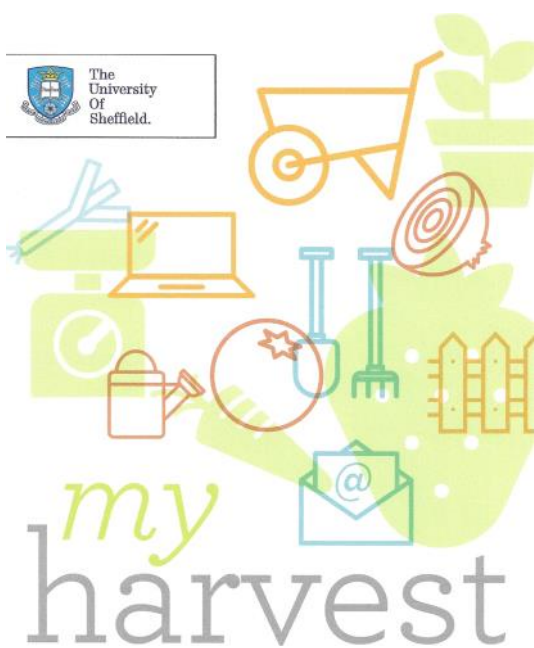
Renewing the lease at your Voluntary Managed site - some important points.

Does your site's lease comply with the Council's 'Model Lease'? The Council agreed that all new and renewing sites should be offered the new terms. K FAG has produced a new leaflet about lease renewals at voluntary managed sites.

Since 2008, following negotiations with K FAG, the main terms have been made less onerous for Associations, making them more reasonable and fair to expect of a non-commercial organisation run by volunteers managing an allotment site on the Council's behalf.

Most of the changes concern the 'hard assets' such as fences, gates, water supply, paths, etc. limiting an Association's responsibility to day-to-day maintenance that a competent DIY person could do, not involving replacement or large capital expenditure.

If your site lease has not been renewed since 2008 and you would like a copy of the new K FAG leaflet and the 'Model Lease' document then please contact the secretary.



MEASURE YOUR (MY) HARVEST invites you to participate in an exciting research project that will estimate total own-grown fruit and vegetable production across the UK and its important contribution to national food security. We currently have a poor understanding of how much own-grown food is produced, so our research is key to providing an evidence base from which to support the use of land for growing spaces within our cities and towns.

The research team at the University of Sheffield are working with members of the public who grow on allotments, in gardens and other spaces across the UK, to determine the yield of typical UK staple fruit and vegetable crops. By providing our team with data on your harvests, you would be:

- 1 Contributing to a first national estimate of own-grown food production in the 21st century
- 2 Helping us to understand how much allotment and garden space we need in the future to ensure sufficient access for the growing number of people living in our cities and towns

It is really easy to take part in MYHarvest.
For details on how to participate go to:

myharvest.org.uk

myharvest@sheffield.ac.uk

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