

# THE ALLOTMENT

HAMPTON COURT WAY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM JILL, SITE MANAGER

**Dear All,**

It seems like a long time ago now but thank you to everyone who helped during the site maintenance weekend, the turn-out was great and we managed to complete all the tasks. I haven't had a huge amount of feedback but most has been very positive. **The next autumn site clear-up will be held on 3rd & 4th October** as planned, so put the dates in your diary.

**Our next social event is the barbecue on 4th July. It would be great to see you there and if you would like to bring any salads or puddings to share please let me know.**

**There have been a few strange "thefts" on site recently. Several members have reported that their hose attachments have gone missing and a quantity of wooden stakes were taken from the rear of a plot. I don't know of any crops being taken but watch out for this as the growing season progresses. If you see strangers on plots please tell a committee member so that an alert can be sent out to everyone.**



**On my recent site walk-over I noticed that the onions growing on some plots are not looking too healthy, many bulbs being affected by distorted growth. I have done some research and think the most likely culprit is the Onion Bloat Nematode/Stem Eelworm.**

In general, this nematode (*Ditylenchus Dipsaci*) causes swelling and distortion of plant stems and leaves and necrosis or rotting of stem bases and bulbs. Young plants can be killed by high infestations. As the season advances the bulbs become soft and when cut open show browning of the inner circles.

*Ditylenchus Dipsaci* on garlic does not induce deformities or swelling but causes leaf yellowing and death.

**You should remove and destroy any infected plants as soon as possible. Do not compost them. Burn them or take them off site.**

The nematode can survive for years without a host plant. Nematode survival and damage is greater in heavy soils where it can persist for several years. It can also survive on a number of weeds. Infestations are favoured by wet and mild temperatures and adversely affected by dry conditions or temperatures below 10°C and above 22°C. With a bit of luck this hot weather will destroy the little blighters!

Do not plant onions, leeks, garlic, beans, peas, beetroot, pumpkins, carrots, parsnips, rhubarb or strawberries on the infected soil for at least three to four years.

Try growing Caliente Mustard grown as a green manure, chop it up as fine as possible and dig it in to a depth of about 6". This acts as a bio-fumigant and may help with eelworm and wireworm. The latter is a major pest in potato crops.

**Jill**

### **STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

**A Dutch bulb grower found that after growing African marigolds the following crop of bulbs had no attack from eelworms.** ([www.welly-woman.wordpress.com/2012/03/09/the-weed-killing-plant/](http://www.welly-woman.wordpress.com/2012/03/09/the-weed-killing-plant/))

## THE ANNUAL BBQ

**£3 per person. Guests Welcome • SALAD, BREAD + DESERT PROVIDED.**

**Please bring a chair, cutlery, crockery, glasses, food for the grill (we will happily cook it for you) and refreshments. JILL will be co-ordinating food contributions for the table - 020 8224 0762/macanjill@ntlworld.com**



**Saturday July 4th  
6.00pm onwards**

**PHONE OR EMAIL TO BOOK**



# BEES AND STING INFORMATION

Please be assured that bees are generally far less aggressive than wasps and will usually only sting defensively when they think their colony is threatened.

When a honey bee stings, the sting, venom sac and venom pump are left in the skin after the bee pulls away, the honeybee consequently dies.

If you are stung most of the venom will be injected in the first 20 seconds but the pump can continue for up to two minutes. It is important to get the sting out fast to minimize the dose of venom. The best method is to scratch out the sting with a fingernail or a plastic credit card. It might be worth keeping a tube of piriton cream for stings and antihistamine pills or liquid piriton in your shed to reduce the effect of the sting. A quicksquirt with wasp-eze or another product around the same area will mask the alarm pheromone in the sting to stop any more bees from stinging in the same area. On returning

home, an ice pack or packet of frozen peas will help to reduce any pain or swelling resulting from the sting if you were unable to apply an antihistamine.

Some people have some allergic reaction to stings. This can range from slight swelling in the vicinity of the sting, to a generalized itching (urticaria) or a naphylaxis (generalised shock including difficulty in breathing). This very allergic group need to be careful. Anaphylactic shock is rare and you may never see it, react quickly and calmly to receive help.

Severe reactions may be reversed by administering epinephrine (adrenaline) via an EpiPen. Please be aware that an EpiPen contains epinephrine and should only be self-administered.

***In case of an emergency at the allotment call an ambulance and explain a severe reaction to a sting.***

***Grid Reference of the allotments is TQ 153 673 and the Post Code is KT8 0BW.***

## Literary Compost

**An onion can make people cry but there's never been a vegetable that can make people laugh.** Will Rogers

**Imagination is the real and eternal world of which this vegetable universe is but a faint shadow.** William Blake

### SITE REMINDERS:

Site speed limit is 5mph;  
This applies to everyone!  
Maintenance of the track is hard enough. Please respect the limit.

***Bonfires are NOT permitted from 1st May to 30th September.***

**Please don't wash your veg or tools in the water tanks.**

Please make sure  
your plot number  
can be clearly seen



## SWARMING.....

***When bees swarm they are very unlikely to sting you. They are full of honey and just looking for a new home. They have nothing to defend and are not in the mood for a punch-up.***

***Look at the 'beard of bees' trick. A colony is persuaded to swarm. The cloud of workers then follow their leader to a queen in a little cage strapped to the chin of a nutter. They then settle on the nutter or 'beardist', who might get the odd sting but on the whole will be left unharmed. It says something for how non-aggressive a swarm is - to be that messed about and not get cross! (Not sure how that works if the queen is caged but hey...)***

***Experienced beekeepers will be aware and work to stop a swarm happening. They make sure bees have plenty of space to grow, enough plants to forage and water to drink and that their queen is not too old. A swarm is how colonies reproduce and multiply and an older queen is more likely to cause that process. (A queen lives for 3 years). Beekeepers will replace their queens every couple of seasons to make sure their bees stay put.***

## OTHER NEWS

***The beekeepers on our site had to burn a couple of hives recently as there were not enough Queens and the bees seemed to be unusually aggressive - stinging a few people.***

### CROP THEFT.

***Last month some crops were taken from a plot. Please inform a committee member if you notice produce missing from your plot or any suspicious people hanging around.***

### DOG POOP

***Recently a dog walker was seen to allow her charge to leave a rather unpleasant parcel on the grass verge at the end of a plot. When challenged she gave the excuse of not having a bag. This is unacceptable and a health hazard. You may not be happy to approach dog walkers but please report this type of behaviour to a committee member.***

### NEWS ITEMS WANTED

***If you have anything you wish to share please don't be shy. Send your copy to annecox@f2s.com and it will appear in the next newsletter.***

## DIARY REMINDERS

**4th July - Summer Barbecue**  
**15th August - EMGS Flower Show**  
**3rd & 4th October - Site work-days**

### Who's Who

CHAIR - Julie Smith  
smirkysmith1@hotmail.com  
TREASURER - Tom Appleton  
tomcein@aol.com  
SECRETARY - Sheena Clarke  
sheenaclarke0@gmail.com  
SITE MANAGER - Jill McDermott  
macanjill@ntlworld.com  
TRUSTEES - Sheena Clarke,  
Marie Mullard & Tom Appleton  
MEMBERSHIP / LETTINGS -  
Piotr Hennig - piotr@admojo.co.uk  
COMMITTEE - Marie Mullard  
mariemullard@gmail.com  
COMMITTEE - Ian Billett  
WEBSITE - Rupert (Plot 13)  
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NEWSLETTER - Anne Cox  
poppycox@f2s.com

**ALLOTMENT POSTCODE - KT8 0BW**