

THE ALLOTMENT

HAMPTON COURT WAY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

THE AUTUMN UPDATE FROM JILL, SITE MANAGER

WELL DONE! AGAIN!

Once again we achieved great success at the EMGS flower show and managed to win the award for the best allotments society. This is the third year that we have won the overall prize for the inter allotment challenge. Well done to all who submitted entries or donated produce and a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it happen.

There have been a few reports of produce going missing and it is suspected that people have been helping themselves. As we are an open site it is virtually impossible to stop this happening and I would ask people to be aware of strangers on site, particularly any wandering around plots or generally just hanging about.

Many of you will be pleased to know that bonfires are permitted on site from 1st October. Don't forget to check wind direction before lighting up – blowing towards Tiffin's playing field is good but heading for the road

or neighbouring properties is not! Please also look out for wildlife taking refuge in piles of vegetation, relocate stacks before setting them alight.

THE WORK PARTY WEEKEND

The site is looking a bit scruffy at the moment, so good job it's almost time for the next Work Party Weekend. Hurray you say!

8th & 9th October

9.30 am - 1.00pm each day.

Refreshments provided.

There are the usual maintenance tasks to do;

Pothole filling
Hedge trimming
Fence mending
Rubbish clearing
Tree lopping
Plus a few one off tasks

***Please come along and help,** even if you only have an hour to spare. It makes a huge difference and the more people we have the more we can achieve for everyone's benefit.*

Unfortunately a skip will not be available so non-biodegradable rubbish will need to be taken off site to be disposed of.

Important Notices

PAVING SLABS

If you have used paving slabs to create patio areas or pathways on your plot please would you remove them as soon as possible? We have received notification from the Council that these are unauthorised installations and contravene the terms of our Lease. If you have used paving slabs under sheds or greenhouses these are permitted to remain. I need to confirm compliance so will be doing a site inspection shortly.

EXCESSIVE DRIVING SPEED

Despite repeated reminders some drivers are still using excessive speed on site. This is particularly dangerous in the access road from Broadfields and cannot continue. As a last resort it has been decided that a speed hump will be installed at the entrance to our site.

Please remember the roadway is regularly used by pedestrians and cyclists. It is also the main route to the public footpath alongside the allotments.

DAMAGED TAPS

Several taps have been badly damaged this season. Please report issues to me rather than fixing them yourselves. Only turn water off at the valve if there is a major leak.

Working Party - on the mornings of the 8th and 9th October - See above for details

AGM - 16th January 2017 - Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club., Weston Green Road.

Pests noticed on the site this year



Common name: Red berry mite, Blackberry mite, 'red-berry' disease
Plants affected: Blackberries
Symptom: Uneven ripening of fruit
Most active: April-September

Red berry mite is a microscopic (<0.2mm) whitish mite that sucks sap from flower and fruit of blackberries, a common cause of uneven ripening.

It does not affect other cane fruits.

Symptoms

Red berry mites over winter under bud scales and become active on the foliage during the spring. At flowering time the mites move onto the flowers and developing fruits.

The first fruits to develop usually ripen fully but later fruits show

increasingly patchy ripening, with some parts of the berries remaining hard and red or green. The patchy ripening is caused by the mites injecting a toxic saliva into the fruit and the damage is sometimes referred to as 'red-berry' disease.

Control

There are no suitable pesticides available for control of the mite and so the damage has to be tolerated. Heavily affected canes can be cut to ground level as soon as the problem is noticed and binned (including council compost) or burnt. Canes with persistent problems of red berry mite are probably best replaced.

Partly ripened berries can be used for cooking or making jam or wine.

Literary Compost

In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.

William Blake
1757 – 1827 (English poet & painter)

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus
1913 – 1960 (French philosopher)

SITE REMINDERS:

Site speed limit is 5mph
Please be considerate and respect the limit!



Bonfires are permitted from 1st October to 30th April.

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

Make sure your plot number can be clearly seen



DIARY REMINDERS

8 -9 October - Site work-days
from 9.30 to 1.00pm each day

16 January 2017 - AGM
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club

HCWAA MEMBERS COLUMN INCHES

A follow-up on the item in the Summer Newsletter, re strawberries taken to the hospice.



The strawberries were so well received that I raised the question of veg with Maggie McHale at the hospice and she said "good idea" so I took up french beans, which apparently are often on the menu. I wasn't able to keep going with this but Mick Mullard

did, making a number of visits with veg.

We all know growing veg often produces feast and, sadly famine! Regarding the former, if members were able to contribute in any way, the hospice would be most grateful to receive anything.

If any members are interested in this idea then please contact me.

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