

THE ALLOTMENT

HAMPTON COURT WAY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM JILL, SITE MANAGER

In the last few months there have been several complaints and concerns raised regarding trees being planted on site and I thought perhaps I should clarify for everyone:

Under the terms of our Lease the only trees that we are permitted to plant are domestic fruit trees.

If you have planted any trees that do not fit this description please remove them as soon as possible.

Please watch out for and remove any saplings that appear on your plot. Oak, Horse Chestnut, Sycamore and Ash are probably the most common particularly if you use leaf mulch.

*When purchasing fruit trees it is really important that you make sure they are **only dwarf or semi-dwarf rootstock**. Please also consider your neighbours and plant sensibly so as to not cause obstruction or undue shade on adjoining plots.*

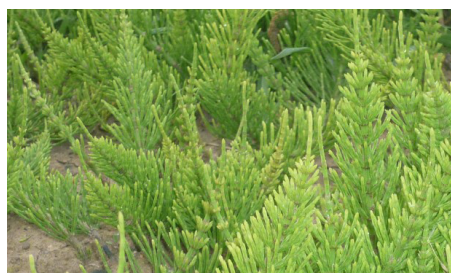
Although there are a number of large shrubs on site these are not encouraged and may even

*contravene the permitted use of allotment gardens and associated purposes. If you are considering planting flowering shrubs **please don't**. Our Lease is due for renewal shortly and we would not wish to jeopardise that.*

We do have a few very large Oak trees on site plus a few Beech, Ash and Hawthorn; these must not be removed without the consent of the Council.

Hopefully that makes everything clear but if you are still in doubt please let me know.

I have been entertaining myself by doing some research, this time on the dreaded horsetail also known as scouring-rush.



Did you know this is actually a perennial herb and it has many practical uses? How about a nose rinse to reduce inflammation and swelling, a tea to ease varicose

veins or use in the bath to relieve rheumatic pain? Then there are the beauty benefits; a horsetail compress to boost ageing facial skin or perhaps a tincture for sweaty feet or a firming gel to improve the appearance of cellulite? Don't fancy any of those then what about using it to clean your pewter ware? For the garden or allotment try spraying plants with a horsetail brew to ward off downy mildew and prevent rust on your hollyhocks. If you would like details on how to make the brews, teas and potions let me know and I'll send you the recipes.

Lastly, if anyone is interested in joining Esher & Molesey Garden Society as a full member please get in touch with our chairperson, Julie Hennig, or our treasurer, Tom Appleton. I am told that the lectures are very interesting and the outings always popular. If you have some spare time and would like to help out EMGS would love to hear from you, new blood is always welcome!

Jill

AGM - Monday 16th January, 7.30 pm at Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club.
As usual the bar will be open and refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!



The Esher Molesey Garden Society has accepted an invitation from the Committee of Hampton Court Way Allotment Association to move its **Trading Depot** onto **Plot One**.

Planning permission has been obtained from Elmbridge Borough Council. Costs are being investigated and the timing of the move is being planned.

We do not expect to complete the move in less than a year but HCWAA members can look forward to having the convenience of horticultural supplies available on their own allotment site.

Dishing the dirt on soil!

1. The 'Ideal' soil should contain the correct proportions of **air** 25%, **water** 25%, **minerals** 45%, **organic matter** 4% and **micro-organisms** 1%.

2. Soil micro-organisms transform organic matter into plant available nutrients that can be absorbed or digested by the plant. A tablespoon of soil has more micro-organisms than the whole population on earth.

3. Development Of Antibiotics. Almost all of the antibiotics we take for the treatment or prevention of infections were obtained from soil micro-organisms.

4. CO₂. About 10% of the world's CO₂ emissions are stored in soil.

5. The 13 nutrients for plant growth (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sulphur, Boron, Zinc, Iron, Copper, Manganese, Molybdenum, Chlorine) are all supplied by the soil.

6. Soil PH. 6.0-6.5 is the optimum PH level for availability of all nutrients.

7. Organic matter content in soil should not be less than 4%, for availability of all key nutrients.

8. Avoid Compaction. Maintain good soil structure. Soils need a 25% air space to breath.



Poor structure



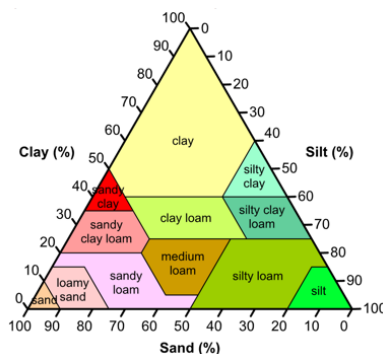
Good structure

9. Avoid Soil Erosion. One inch of top soil can take more than 500 years to create but can be destroyed very quickly. Soil erosion also causes loss of nutrients and the pollution of watercourses.

10. Avoid Waterlogging. Soil only needs 25% water. Waterlogged soils causes soil erosion and leads to loss of valuable nutrients. Waterlogging also creates anaerobic conditions that cause high emissions of the greenhouse gas, Nitrus Oxide (N₂O).

11. Store more water in the soil by increasing the organic matter content of your soil.

12. Know Your Soil Texture.



13. Balanced nutrition is essential. All nutrients are required for optimum plant growth and a deficiency of any one, macro or micro, will cause reduced growth and yield.

14. Selenium. Almost all UK and Irish soils are deficient in Selenium - a key nutrient for human (and animal) health.

Literary Compost

One kind word can warm three winter months

Japanese Proverb

The Nation that destroys its soil destroys itself

Franklin D Roosevelt, 1937

SITE REMINDERS:

Site speed limit is 5mph;
This applies to everyone!
Please respect the limit.



Bonfires - permitted until 30th April.

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

Please make sure
your plot number
can be clearly seen



DIARY REMINDERS

16 January 2016 - AGM

Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club

Who's Who

CHAIR - Julie Smith
smirkysmith1@hotmail.com

TREASURER - Tom Appleton
tomcein@aol.com

SECRETARY - Sheena Clarke
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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
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ALLOTMENT POSTCODE - KT8 0BW

Do you have allotment NEWS, VIEWS, CARTOONS, PHOTOGRAPHS or POEMS you would like to share?
If so we would love to publish it. Please forward to either sheenaclarke0@gmail.com or macanjill@ntlworld.com