

KVLGA February Newsletter



Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }}

Welcome to the first KVLGA Newsletter from your new committee. Following the AGM in January, we have already met online twice.

We are looking forward to seeing more people down at the allotments as restrictions ease and the weather improves.

So far, we have appointed one or two people to each of these roles: Site Officers, Security Officer, Bio-Diversity and Environment Officers, Lettings Officers and Health and Safety Officer.

The commitment from the new committee is to improve **your** experience at the allotments.

We are very interested to know your opinions so please contact us by [email](#) or talk to one of the committee members - listed below.

KVLGA Committee for 2021

James Hunt plots 30 & 31 - Chairman & Site Officer
Dorothy plot 19 - Vice-Chair - Environment & Bio-Diversity
Bill Trimble plot 41 - Treasurer
John Nowak plot 39 - Secretary

General Committee

Sean McCormack plot 33b - Site Security Officer
John Foley plot 37a
Wes Henzell plot 33a - Site Officer
Alison Forrester plot 1a - Lettings Officer - Environment & Bio-Diversity
Mehran Moini plot 43b - Health & Safety Officer
Jason Dean plot 32a
Sammie Wiseman plot 42b
Bobby Sisodiya plot 3a
Johnny Bouchier plots 8b & 38a - Lettings Officer

A national shortage ... can you help?

As you may know, there is a national shortage of allotment plots. And locally this is true too. We, Kingston Vale allotments, have over 30 people on our waiting list. Each of these is a local family, some of whom have been on our waiting list for over 18 months. We also know that each of these people would still love to have an allotment on our site, as we regularly contact all on our waiting list to see if they still want a plot.

It hasn't always been like this. At times in the past, it has been difficult to let plots on our site. At that time some kind-hearted existing plot-holders agreed to take on additional plots so that the land could be worked and kept in good condition, and our thanks are due to these plot-holders. Perhaps this taking on of an extra plot was, or should've been seen as a temporary measure?

However, times have changed.

In today's climate, with a waiting list of over 30, and with a number of plot-holders still occupying more than one plot, would it not be sensible, considerate, and community-spirited to consider giving up some of your plot-holding to someone on the waiting list?

If you occupy more than one plot please consider giving up some of your plot-holding to a local family on the waiting list.

Please just let any committee member know of what plot(s) you wish to give up.

Thank you.

Health and Safety Officer update

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am **Mehran Moini** a resident of Kingston Vale and I joined the KVLGA community in Oct 2020. In February this year, I had the honour of being nominated and elected as **Health and Safety Officer** of the KVLGA Committee. I have been trusted and tasked by the Committee in this role with implementing visible measures that will improve the health and safety of all plot holders, our neighbours, and other stakeholders.

To achieve this I need the help and support of everyone who works on or visits our plots i.e. you! Let, me explain.

Health and Safety is everyone's business, we will have a much safer and healthier allotment if we all keep an eye on our own as well as our friends and neighbour's health and safety, and it is always better to avoid having an accident rather than dealing with consequences of it. Industry experience has shown that the most effective way of accident prevention is to encourage workers to report all HSE incidents even if there was no damage or injury.

I have proposed to the Committee and they have agreed to start an Incident Reporting programme. I, therefore, plead with everyone to report all Health, Safety, Security and Environmental incidents. Any incident that has the potential to do damage is worth reporting, it can be something like a leaking tap, near miss with a speeding car in the lane, nails or broken glass in the soil, etc. I am working on the format of an "Observation Card" that can be filled in for reporting purposes; in the meantime, you can report by sending an email to the [Committee](#) and providing the following information:

- Date and time of the incident
- Location of the incident
- Brief description of the incident

To encourage everyone to participate, I am proposing to the Committee to provide a budget for the "Best Incident Report" of the month, so watch this space and keep reporting.

I will endeavour to also cover specific concerns that have been raised by plot holders in HSE Section. Obviously, there hasn't been any feedback yet, so I this month I can decide!

Bonfires

Bonfires are permitted under our rules from dusk till dawn, as per KVLGA Member's handbook (available via the Member's section on our [website](#)).

However, we would urge people to follow Council advice not to have bonfires **at all** during the pandemic. Bonfires are a health risk and damage the environment. Some KVLGA members suffer from asthma and have a severe reaction to smoke, so please be mindful of your neighbours and refrain from burning if your neighbours have medical issues.

In case we haven't met I have attached my photo, feel free to stop me for a chat or visit me on plot 43b at any time. In the meantime, "Stay Safe" until the next Newsletter.

Mehran Moini - plot 43b





Please join our **Facebook** group by clicking the icon.
We share hints and tips on gardening.
Useful videos.
A way to keep in touch with your fellow allotmenters.



Barry & Tom give an informative talk about our Vale Bees!

Saturday 6th March at 5pm

ZOOM LINK TO FOLLOW



Two of our plot holders Barry & Tom Wood would like to share the following with us:

Insects are responsible for pollinating approximately one-third of what we eat.

One of the most prolific pollinators is the Honeybee, due to its large colony size.

Barry has been a beekeeper for over eleven years and is still fascinated by these extremely hard-working and vital little creatures.

Visit their website <https://valebees.com> to find out more.

He would like to share more amazing little known facts about honeybees, so please join their next Zoom.

I very much look forward to seeing you then.
Barry

PLOT EVALUATIONS

The growing season is rapidly approaching and the committee has decided to start plot evaluations. The main concern is excessive plastic and rubbish on plots. The refuse tips are open so now is the ideal time to correctly dispose of unnecessary rubbish on your plot.

There will be "soft" evaluations i.e. not resulting in 28-day notices but performed to inform and support plot holders of their "plot cultivation/site upkeep" obligations agreed, as per the handbook, when the plot was taken on.

The committee understands that some of you will have had challenges due to Covid-19 and have not been able to attend the site as much as you would have liked.

If you have any concerns about this or any other matter, please email the Committee using the committee@kingstonvga.co.uk email address.

A promotional banner for a 'GARDEN QUIZ!' event. The background is a close-up photograph of a garden fork stuck in dark soil with small green seedlings. The word 'GARDEN' is written in large, bold, green letters at the top, and 'QUIZ!' is in large, bold, white letters below it. On the right side, there is a dark grey rounded rectangle containing the text 'General Knowledge', 'Photo Round', and 'Charades!' in white. At the bottom, a dark green bar contains the text 'Saturday 20th March 6pm on Zoom!!' and 'LINK TO FOLLOW' in white.

GARDEN

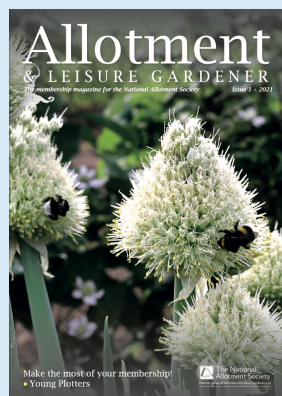
QUIZ!

General Knowledge
Photo Round
Charades!

Saturday 20th March 6pm on Zoom!!
LINK TO FOLLOW

The Committee is adding past **AGM and committee meeting minutes** to the Member's area on the [website](#).

Please contact admin@kingstonvga.co.uk if you would like the username and password to access this Member's area.



Allotment & Leisure Gardener magazine

The National Allotment Society produces this excellent magazine and as members, we are making it available to plot holders via the member's section of the [KVLGA website](#).

[Unsubscribe here](#)



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