

Award Funds Community Composting

Site Liaison Volunteers

We were all familiar with the 'Site liaison Officer' post, well following much debate, as of this summer these well valued individuals are now known as Site Liaison Volunteers'.

A title much more in keeping with they volunteering status. They remain vital to the smooth running of Kingston's 14 council run sites, providing a most valuable service, to their fellow plot holders and the council.

Site Liaison Volunteers of course do a sterling job encouraging new allotment growers develop they skills and interest.

KFAG hosted a 'Site Liaison Volunteers' meeting and Marie-Claire Edwards (Kingston Council) joined us on Saturday 27th September at St. John's Parish Hall, Grove Lane, Kingston.



Site Liaison Meeting

KFAG's recent successful funding application to Awards for All, an arm of the Big Lottery has gained Kingston a new community composting scheme. The grant of £1,150 will fund three innovative compost demonstration bins. These will be located at allotment sites across Kingston. The bins will be custom built, and are an adapted version of the original "Scotty Box",



An Original Nicky Scott design.

Dudley, KFAG's chairman came up with the idea of having a transparent side panel on the 4ft x 3ft 'hot box', for viewing the composting process, as well as having a lockable lid. The bins will be the focal point of KFAG's community events over the coming year on the 3 chosen allotment sites.

The chosen sites are mapped across the borough:

1. **Kingston Vale** Voluntary managed site on the Kingston / Wandsworth borders. Already delivered 3 composting training courses and has an on site composting mentor.
2. **Addison Gardens** A Surbiton site on the borders with Kingston. Well on the way to being a voluntary managed.
3. **Hook Rd** A large voluntary managed site in the south of the borough.

These events will be supported by Kingston Council & the London Community Recycling Network. The aim of the demonstration bins is to enable Kingston's allotment gardeners at the identified allotment sites to act as the hub for composting advice across the borough. The demonstration bins will add an extra element of interest on the allotments. KFAG will host events throughout the growing season. These events will target the local community inviting them onto the sites, to meet plot holders, who will happily share their experience and gardening

knowledge of growing and composting.

It is hoped that by providing advice on composting, residents will discover and welcome the key benefits of home composting, namely:

-Reducing the amount of food waste that goes to landfill, produce greenhouses gases that contribute to climate change.

-How to use the home made compost which is excellent for the garden, saves money and reduce the use of peat-based products.

As a bonus plot holders will of course get to use the community compost they make. So look out for a whole new programme of KFAG activities in the new year.

KFAG works with Kingston Council to develop 'Model Lease'

Dudley and Gloria attended last months 'Project Board' meeting at Guildhall with Marie-Claire Edwards. Amongst the busy agenda was a discussion on the required content of a model lease. All was on course for the completion of a 'model lease' in time for a final meeting in October. This is great news for all voluntary managed sites, who's committee will no longer have to negotiate individual agreements with the local authority. KFAG are pleased with this development which will particularly support sites wishing to pursue voluntary management arrangements. The new leases will clearly address all the responsibilities for renewal, repair and maintenance of hard assets, including fences, gates and water supply systems. KFAG hopes all sites will benefit from this new arrangement.

