

Editorial

Trolleys in and around the Hogsmill River have been a constant problem in recent years. Removal and disposal of abandoned trolleys are the responsibility of the owner. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 99 and Schedule 4, empowers councils to take legal action in such cases. For instance, after an abandoned trolley on open land, highway or local authority land is identified, the local authority could serve a notice to its owner for its removal. If the trolley is not removed within the schedule time, the trolley can be recovered by the local authority and the owner charged reasonable costs for recovery, transportation, storage and disposal.



Bonesgate Improvement Project - Update 3

Partners have succeeded in securing substantial funding from the Environment Agency to push the project further on. We have now moved onto the next phase: managing the huge Crack Willows that grow on either side of the banks. The Environment Agency has done some initial work with more to follow. Further upstream a new path is to be constructed by the Lower Mole Project along the banks in Bonesgate Open Space. This summer a vehicle gate and pedestrian squeeze will be built in preparation for the resurfacing next year. This will allow easy pedestrian access to the river bank. Here the stream is in an attractive hollow that supports many ancient woodland ground flora during the spring. In the summer it provides welcome shade for walkers and birds that frequent the site.

Paint the Town Green Festival

To help build up the community involvement and interest in the environment RBK has been a lead partner in organising the first ever Paint the Town Green festival.

This is a fortnight long series of events taking place around the borough promoting sustainable living and communities. Events include Ecological Footprint surgeries to help people reduce their impact on the environment without drastically changing their lifestyle, Real nappy starter classes for mum's and dad's to help get their children off to a greener start and a Dr Bike to help residents improve the safety of the bicycle and promote more sustainable transport. A key event of the festival is the Kingston Green Fair and the celebration of its 20th anniversary.

Kingston 2007



To find out more about all the exciting events this festival in bringing to Kingston, contact RBK Customer Services on 0208 547 5757 or by e-mail on contact.us@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

What is on for this summer?

29 May

Green Fair litter pick – Canbury Gardens / Kingston

Help restore Canbury Gardens to its beautiful pre-Green Fair state. 7am onwards, arrive at 6:30 am and get a free breakfast-expenses will be paid. Meet at the entrance of Canbury Gardens riverside on Lower Ham Road.

16 Jun 10:00 am

Himalayan Balsam pull along the Bonesgate Area

Meet at the junction of Kingston Road and Worcester Park Road, at the entrance of the Hogsmill path on the Epsom and Ewell side. Materials and refreshments will be provided.

14 July 10:30 am

Clean up day at Long Meadows

Meet at entrance to fields off Malden Way slip road. 10:30 am. Bus 265 or K1. Train station Malden Manor Parking on slip road by shops. Materials and refreshments will be provided.

Have your say!

A public consultation to learn about residents views on an enhancement project for the sewage works main site on Lower Marsh Lane in Kingston, is open to the general public until the end of May. The project, designed by Thames Water, includes river restoration to sections of the Hogsmill, erection of bird hide on Surbiton lagoon and viewing platform on Western lagoon.

You can view the planning application (No. 07/12357) in Kingston Library and second floor reception at Guildhall 2, Kingston.

Alternatively on the Council's web site www.kingston.gov.uk/planning_applications.htm

If you would like to be kept up to date with regular news and information on the Hogsmill, or have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Environment Officer on 020 8547 5347, email environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk or write to the address opposite.

Seasons of the Hogsmill

- Photography Competition 2007

The Hogsmill Photography Competition is now in its second year. Working in partnership with Snappy Snaps we are focusing this years competition on capturing iconic seasonal images along the Hogsmill Valley Walk. So if you haven't started taking your pictures yet, get ready and off you go to enjoy the Walk and capture its beauty and diversity with your camera.

Details of the competition are available on our website www.kingston.gov.uk/hogsmill_photography_competition.htm or you could request your copy by contacting RBK Customer Services on 0208 547 5757 or via e-mail on contact.us@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

While visiting our website why don't you check out the 2006 winning entries.

Henry Riley & Mark Stanford. Two proud Winners of 2006 competition



Terrapins in the Hogsmill... Nooooooo

A red-eared terrapin has been seen wondering around the Bedelsford Bridge in Kingston. Originally from America, the red-eared terrapin is among the 100 most invasive species in the world. They are bought as pets and later released into the wild where the terrapins can grow up to a foot long. The invasion of terrapins in the UK has been linked to the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles craze of the early 1990s.



Now hundreds are on the loose in London and potentially thousands in ponds across the UK, feeding on the native wildlife, eating worms, fish and ducklings, duck eggs, fish, slugs and snails. The release of exotic species into the wild is illegal in the UK. Experts said UK waters were too cold for the terrapins to reproduce but climate change could change that.



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Printed on recycled paper

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Published May 2007

