



Katesgrove

Community Association



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

On 8th May the country was celebrating VE (Victory in Europe) day but under rather different circumstances than planned.

Despite the lockdown, the people of Katesgrove came together with their neighbours in a socially distanced manner

to make it a bank holiday to remember. There was Union Jack bunting decorating houses, afternoon tea with clotted cream and scones, and a wonderful celebratory atmosphere full of music and neighbourly spirit across our Katesgrove Ward.

It was great to see so many households celebrating and if you were one of those households then we would love to see your photos – be it cream tea in the garden or VE window decorations!

If you would be happy to share these with your community then please send an email to katesgrovecommunity@gmail.com or post/message to our [Facebook page](#).

Katesgrove's Community (Award Winning) Allotment!

Have won an award - the silver award for Reading in Bloom Best Maintained Allotment category.

This was a fantastic achievement and we must congratulate Food 4 Families and our allotment volunteers! They are reaping the rewards from the allotment—produce is shared between the volunteers and is also given to community events such as the Town Meal.

Unfortunately due to the pandemic we have had no group sessions since March. However the volunteers have been hard at work, going in on their own to dig, plant and water. The allotment is thriving! We are hoping to start up with tutorials in June, with proper safety rules and social distancing.



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Be kind to Katesgrove!

We love our community; please show you care too

If you see litter or fly tipping, please report it to Love Clean Reading <https://loveclean.reading.gov.uk/reports>

If you see streetlights not working, potholes or broken pavements report them to Love Clean Reading or <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>



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Being Neighbourly

Community spirit shines through during lockdown and neighbours and friends have been clubbing together to help each other out whether it is fetching food or prescriptions or just making sure that the vulnerable and isolated have everything they need.

Reading Mutual Care the One Reading Community Hub and other voluntary organisations have been getting neighbours involved and doing a wonderful job.



The UK's Big Lunch will go ahead on 6 & 7 June 2020 *but will be a little different!*

Now more than ever, we need to make time for each other. So, let's get the nation talking over a cuppa and a bite to eat and have some fun with The Big *Virtual* Lunch.

Some suggestions for your virtual Big Lunch are to meet on line, talk over the phone or sit in your front garden where you can wave at your neighbours.

For more information and to download packs, please visit the Big Lunch on the Eden Project website.

Gardening Tips

"Like so many people at the moment, I have found myself spending a lot more time in the garden. I've always been a keen gardener, but my increased time in the garden has taught me there is always something new to learn. Here are some handy tips for June:

Keep watering those hanging baskets but don't forget the plant food

It's really hard to overwater hanging baskets or containers in this hot weather, but do remember to use slow-release plant food as well as all that water can wash away some of the nourishment.

Give that hedge a haircut - it will grow back nice and thick

During Spring, a hedge will suddenly explode with growth, shooting upwards very quickly. Be quite assertive with your trimming, cutting it back to its Spring levels. This will increase thickness and retain the shape of your hedge nicely.

Weeds hate the dry weather - hoe them out

Use the hot weather to your advantage and regularly hoe flowerbeds to get rid of weeds. They'll already be on their last legs anyway, so some rigorous hoeing will finish the job

Pinch out those perennials

No-one likes lanky perennials, flopping all over the place. The way to avoid this is to pinch out the growing tips of perennials (e.g.: Phlox and Michaelmas Daisies). This will encourage them to bush out nicely.

Dispose of yellow leaves properly

Often your rose bush may have a few yellow leaves, which suggests a fungal disease called blackspot. Pick off the nasty yellow leaves, but do dispose of them properly in the garden waste otherwise they'll just contaminate the soil and your roses for next year.

Finally...

There's a simple solution to that horrid greenfly besetting your roses and no need to buy expensive sprays either. Just add a dash or two of washing up liquid to a spray-bottle of water and spray your roses every evening. The greenfly really don't like it and, as long as you only use a drop or two of washing up liquid in your spray, the roses will be much happier...

