# Reflecting on Jo Cox's Legacy and Wimbledon's Environmental Commitments



**Jo Cox's Sister Kim Leadbeater Reflects on Her Legacy and Political Challenges**

Kim Leadbeater, sister of the late MP Jo Cox, recently shared her experiences and ongoing challenges in a candid interview on The Defuse Global Podcast. Jo Cox, who was murdered in June 2016, would have turned 50 on June 24, 2024. Leadbeater, now serving as the MP for Batley and Spen, discussed how her sister's death profoundly impacted her life and identity.

Leadbeater highlighted the increased threats and abuse faced by politicians, noting that many MPs experience harassment through social media, emails, and even physical confrontations. She emphasized the need for better security measures for MPs, although funding remains a contentious issue.

Reflecting on her sister's influence, Leadbeater acknowledged Jo's work ethic and passion for politics, which inspired her to continue in the political arena despite the difficult circumstances. She also underscored the importance of political education and fostering a culture that focuses on commonalities rather than divisions.

The interview reveals the personal and professional struggles Leadbeater faces while honoring her sister's legacy and navigating the demands and dangers of political life.

**Wimbledon Groundskeepers Combat Hazardous Caterpillars**

Martyn Falconer, head gardener at Wimbledon, discussed the challenges his team faces in maintaining the prestigious tennis grounds, particularly dealing with the oak processionary moth caterpillar. These caterpillars, which inhabit oak trees, can cause severe irritations and breathing difficulties due to their toxic hairs.

Falconer explained that the team uses biological spray controls in early spring to manage the infestation before the caterpillars become hazardous. This approach avoids harmful chemicals, ensuring the safety of players and spectators.

The head gardener also detailed the extensive work required to prepare the grounds, including managing the fast-growing Boston ivy on Centre Court and planting thousands of bulbs annually. Despite weather challenges, the dedicated team ensures the grounds remain pristine for the Championships.

Looking ahead, Wimbledon aims to enhance its sustainability efforts by potentially going peat-free within the next few years. Currently, trials are being conducted to ensure the hanging basket displays can maintain moisture levels without peat.

These efforts underline the meticulous and forward-thinking approach Wimbledon employs to maintain its iconic venues while prioritizing environmental responsibility.