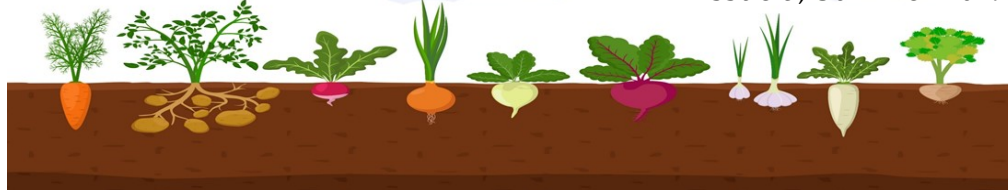




Allotment Newsletter

Issue 5, Summer 2019



Community Outreach in Action

Last year our Past Chair Paula Owen made an offer to Canary Wharf Group to run an allotment at their prestigious new Crossrail gardens at the Queen Elizabeth Station in Canary Wharf. This year our Vice Chair followed it up and we were granted a space to build and maintain an allotment on the site.

It can't be stressed enough that this is a unique and fantastic opportunity which owes all to the determination and vision of these two great mentors within our membership. Tatiana was given the added task of involving not just volunteers from the membership but also the waiting list and community groups. The response was both great and productive and we highly recommend you visit the plot, get involved and proudly applaud what has been achieved.

Canary Wharf Group are very happy, as the allotment bed gets lots of attention from visitors and is in line with their high standard without the involvement of their gardening team.



Chair Notes

The lease on the allotments has passed the final LBTH hurdle and is now on the home straight along with our move to a Co operative Society. It has been a long road and involved jumping over many hurdles, searching endless records and many detailed discussions, but we now can stop looking backwards and start to embrace our secured future.

As more flats get built less green space exists and fewer folk have any space to garden. Fresh vegetables and fruit has never been in such demand and home grown trumps supermarket hands down. Today we have over 150 on the waiting list for what are 95 plots. Interest in and enthusiasm in growing and is higher than ever. We are also extending the activities of the allotments with our very active community outreach programme.

We have renovated the old rusted steel shipping container on the Lower plots creating a weatherproof and fully insulated cabin to be proud of. We have revived the barren borders of the pavilion and thanks to Tatiana have stocked them with foliage and colour. The memorial gardens continue to come back to life and the upper garden strip was an abundance of bloom this summer. But there is much more we can do on the land, to further improve communications and involving the wider community and waiting list.

I am pleased to say that we have now got an equitable and productive and growing relationship with the Farm which has already reaped benefits. This can only continue to develop as we embark on joint projects and community work.

As we move 'co operatively' forward we should all recognise the great opportunities before us and work together to make these happen. Martyn Daniels, Chair.

The Container Refurbishment

After being left to rust and used as a junk store the old Trading Shed shipping container on the Lower plots has been refurbished. Some said it couldn't be done but with sponsorship from Canary Wharf Group and Royal Warrant Holder's Charity Trust it now has; a new roof, guttering, insulation inside and out, half round cladding outside and 18mm plywood lining inside and a lick of paint. It even has shelving given to us from Trinity Buoy Wharf and is now ready to be used, but more of that later.



Mudchute Agricultural Show

Thanks to those who contributed to our award winning presentations of fruit and vegetables and Pickles, chutneys and relishes at this year's Muchute Agricultural Show.



We thought it was too early to produce the quality and quantity of produce but thanks to contributions from 12 plots we did and the rosettes speak for themselves. We also got 5 more for jams, pickles and relishes.

Well done and the variety of produce was there for all to applaud.

David Field

This June we learnt that Dave Field had sadly passed away peacefully. Many of his fellow plot holders had expressed concern that they hadn't seen him, as he was ever present on his plot and always chatting and sharing a joke.

Dave's mother and father had a plot before Dave and he had his plot since the early 90s some 30 years!

We have moved his hydrangea to the memorial area next to the container and plan to install a bench plaque in his memory.

Awards

Vote for the best plot, the most productive plot and have a chance to win other awards.

This year we will be introducing 6 awards which will be presented at this year's AGM.

The Best Upper Plot

This will be voted for by the upper plots and be for the plot which is best maintained, tidiest, productive and the one we all wish was ours!

The Best Lower Plot

This will be as above but for the lower plots.

The Most Productive Plot

All plots can nominate a plot they believe keeps on giving, growing on every piece of land and with a wide variety of produce. A sub committee of the Committee will decide the winner.

The Most Improved Plot

This will be judged by a sub committee of the Committee but will recognise those plots who have made significant improvement over the year.

The Perennial Award

This will be decided by the Committee and awarded to those plot holders who have been working the plots a long time, are constant workers and the Committee feel warrant recognition.

The Chair's Award

This will be a special recognition by the Chair to someone who is felt to have given the extra mile and made that special contribution in the year.

See notice boards for details on how to vote.

Seed / Plant Swap

'Plants for free' has arrived on the allotments and following on from the successful seed swap earlier this year we followed it with a plant swap and some plants didn't stay long and literally disappeared as soon as they were put down.

New Committee Members

We are pleased to announce that we have co opted two new committee members to help manage the Society.

Gillian Mitchell, upper plot 63A. Gillian brings a wealth of management, HR and administration experience.

John Horlick, upper plot 21. John is well known to many and is both very practical and committed to supporting the site and community work.



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and our website. The next newsletter will be out in the new year.

www.iodadas.com

To contact the Editor with photos, ideas, articles and corrections: isleofdoganddistrictallotments@gmail.com

Memorial and Community Gardens

Last year we salvaged a broken bench from the Farm. The bench only had three legs and was destined for the fire. Today, thanks to the hard work of John Horlick it now sits proud in the memorial gardens where we always intended it. We plan to fix small memorial plaques to the bench for recent plot holders and friends we have lost.

The memorial gardens were further improved with the help of a local artist who helped with both the repair and repainting of some of the memorials. Well done Paula and John.



We discovered that Lionel Inns from the top Allotments bought the Sailors memorial from Greenwich antique market many years ago so it was nice to show him the restoration. His uncle, who was an RAF pilot and shot down during the war became a POW and is included in the list of names on the large white memorial. His uncle did make it home safely but it reminds us of how important it is that we both remember and pay respects to our past members.

