



Lease update

As we reported at last year's AGM, in 2017 we were granted an Asset of Community Value (ACV) by LBTH and this award protects us for the next five years. Since the AGM we have been working hard to move things forward and have established that we were granted formal 'self-management' by LBTH in 1978 which forms the basis of our relationship with LBTH since.

The next step was to formally establish our 'statutory' status under the 1925 Allotment Act as being a 'Statutory Allotment' and also to get a formal independent lease arrangement with LBTH. This should have been easy but has proved increasingly frustrating. Nevertheless it does still remain on the table.

However, we have made significant progress on the independent lease and are currently in legal discussions with LBTH over a potential arrangement which would negate the need to establish the statutory status and secure our tenure for a considerable time into the future.

We are working in partnership with the National Allotment Association who are represented in the discussions and will also involve their legal representatives when we have something firm on the table.

It is hoped that a major announcement may be possible by the AGM which would need to be presented and ratified by you. If any decisions are required before then, we may have to call an EGM and will let you know.

Our projects are progressing

Compost bins and Greenhouses



We're pleased to announce our new communal area on the lower allotment is finished! Special thanks to Martyn and Brian for redeveloping this area as it's been a big job. Six compost bins have been installed and four allotment holders are now renting space within the two new greenhouses. If these prove popular we will look to raise funds for a greenhouse on the upper allotments. Let us know if you are interested.

Memorial Garden



If you've entered the Farm via Pier Street in recent weeks you may have seen one of our memorial gardens burst into colour! The memorial garden is dedicated to past allotment holders (JJ Gordon, TD Sammons, GJ White, NW Avery, FJ Vincent, AE Read, DF Campbell, B High) and now has its very own grass path meandering through a variety of self-seeding flowers and fruit including plum, gooseberry and rhubarb. With special thanks to Christine's son who donated the grass and the Farm for their woodchip plus Paula, Brian and Martyn for making it happen. It's a very peaceful corner and we will shortly be adding a communal bench so if you want to sit and rest a while from the midday sun this is the ideal place to do so!

Fantastic Mr Fox!

Have you spotted the newly installed fox proof fencing on the lower allotments? Whilst this has significantly deterred our frequent visitors, they have found a new entry point next to the football pitches. We'll be fixing this during July and whilst we cannot fully eradicate the problem, it should significantly improve.

Blooming Marvellous!



Our Flowers for All campaign has been a terrific success with all 450 plants going to good homes. Many plot holders

benefited from flowers specifically grown to encourage beneficial insects onto their plots as well as putting food on our plates. Plants we grew were: Sweetpeas, borage, calendula, marigolds, tomatoes, cucumbers, cucamelons,

courgettes, beans, squash and pumpkins. If you managed to grab some of the goodies we hope they bring you much joy. Thanks to Paula and Tatiana for growing everything from seed!

We're fundraising for the allotments with ASDA

Please pop into ASDA and help raise money for the allotments. Ask for a green coin at the check-out and the more green coins we get, the more funds we raise!

Fresh Ideas

As our long-standing allotment holders will already know, maintaining an allotment can be hard work. Whatever your circumstance, keeping on top of digging, sowing, weeding, watering, tying in, pinching out and harvesting as well as many other things can be time consuming and well, a bit overwhelming.

Earlier this year we consulted the NAS (National Allotment Society) for some fresh ideas to help our new plot holders and existing plot holders who might be struggling to maintain a full plot. We decided to trial two new approaches.

New Half Plots

We have increased the number of half plots available and you may have noticed the two new half plots on the upper allotments. These plots are for new plot holders until they are ready to move up to a full plot and anyone who would like to downsize. We are looking carefully at where plots can be split and have capped the number to 10% of our total number of plots.

New Allotment Holders - Probation Period

We have introduced a twelve month probation period for all new plot holders. This means that they do not need to cultivate our recommended 80% straight away which can seem a bit daunting and has been resulting in too many failed plot inspections. New plot holders will be required to cultivate their plot in the following way:

- 25% in 3 months
- 50% in 6 months
- 80% in 12 months

If these trials are a success we will look to formalise.

Flower Garden Upper Allotment

Some of you may have noticed a small patch of land as you enter the site via the Mudchute gate looking rather sorry for itself over winter. It has now been planted up with a variety of native plants which should bring a splash of colour and beneficial insects throughout the summer months.

Competition Time!



The 2018 Mudchute Agricultural Show will take place on Saturday and Sunday, the 4th and 5th of August. There will be lots to discover and explore as well

as events and competitions where you can join in the fun!

For us green fingered folks, there is a Fresh Produce competition and we have entered the Allotments into the Best Veg Box category.

We'll have the logistical details nearer the time but if you would like to contribute to the veg box, initial thoughts would be to bring along your items on the Friday night or early Saturday morning to the Pavillion where we can build the box.

The NAS is paying us a visit!



The National Allotment Society

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd

On Saturday 11th August, for the first time ever we are hosting a Regional National Allotment Society

meeting. This meeting will be chaired by our Regional rep Jeff Barber and attended by many London based allotment associations.

As members, we regularly participate in the London panel which meets on a frequent basis to help and support the association's members in the area, promote allotment growing and support allotment management in their area as well as general promotion of the allotment movement.

The meeting will be held between 11am-1pm and will include a tour of our allotments followed by tea and cakes for all!

There are lots of ways to get involved; you might want to ask a question to the panel? or bring a cake? Perhaps you'd like to take part in the plot tour and show off a particular crop or share some old allotment stories?!

Please keep an eye on the notice boards so you know what's going on and if you'd like to get involved let a Committee member know.

Neighbourhood Watch



One of the best things about allotmenting is helping each other out and in this hot weather it's not uncommon to find

more guest visitors on the allotments as harvesting and watering increases. Please remember not to stray onto other people's allotments without their consent and if you do bring people onto the plots, remember to accompany them at all times and ensure children are supervised.

If you need someone to water your plot while you are away on holiday and intend to give a family member your key, don't forget to let a committee member know so that we know to expect a new face and also we can keep an eye on your plot while you're away.

If at any time you become suspicious of someone you may not know on the allotments, please let a committee member know asap who will investigate.

Committee Vacancies

We have two places to fill on the committee. If you would like to join the committee, please let us know by no later than 14 days before our AGM in October or have a chat with Paula who can give you an idea of the sort of things we get up to!

Leaflet boxes

We now have 4 new leaflet boxes installed on the back of each gate. These will be used to distribute our newsletter and other notices

we need to share. They should also help us to reduce our postage costs.

New Suggestions

A number of plot holders have raised concerns regarding the water butts on the upper allotments as a few plot holders have been washing their items within the tanks. We've responded by clearly marking what should and should not be submerged and we hope this helps with any confusion.

If you've got any suggestions/improvements, pop it in a letter and post it in the pavilion letter box or tell a committee member.

Volunteer Jobs this month



We need help repairing the brickwork around the Pavilion. If you have skills in this area please let Brian know so that he can book a date.

What you could be harvesting, sowing and planting now

There are so many crops to harvest in July, so we've picked our favourites.

1. Courgettes
2. Blueberries
3. Shallots and onions
4. Runner beans
5. Cucumbers

To ensure a succession of crops throughout the next few months don't forget to sow:

1. Radish
2. Spring onions
3. Lettuce
4. Kohlrabi
5. Carrots

If you've raised your own plants or bought plug plants, now is the ideal time to plant out winter crops:

1. Cabbage
2. Purple sprouting broccoli
3. Kale
4. Spinach
5. Chard

In other news

MYharvest returns!

MYHarvest (Measure Your Harvest) is a research project Hosted by the University of Sheffield investigating the quantities of home grown fruit and vegetables grown across the UK. Gardeners across the country are encouraged to sign up and record their individual harvests.

If you'd like to get involved sign up at www.myharvest.org.uk

Reader Offers

Gardeners World Magazine is having a summer sale! Get 5 issues for £5 when you subscribe. Incl delivery

Capital Grown - Get 25% off July training with the promotional code 'July25'. Limited offer, expires 31 July.
www.capitalgrowth.org/training

Diary dates

July

29th London Permaculture Festival

August

4-5th August Mudchute Farm Agricultural Show

11th NAS meeting, Allotment Pavilion

September

4-9th RHS Wisley Flower Show

October

7th AGM

27-28th RHS London Urban Garden Show

28th Spooktacular children's event

December

16th Christmas Party

And Finally



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and our website. The next newsletter will be out end of August.

<https://www.iodadas.com>