



Celebrate

This year we introduced Awards voted for by yourselves for; the Best Plot, and the Most Productive Plot and these were for both Upper and Lower plots. There was also a Perennial Award for our long standing plot holders who are always around attending to their plots and like perennials, keep blooming year after year. Finally, a Chair's Award to say thank you to someone who has made a special contribution and added value to the Allotments.



Above from (left to right): **E. Miah** ,Upper 14, **Best Upper Plot**, **E. Gigem**, Lower 10 , **Best Lower Plot**, **A. Jones** Upper 29, Joint Winner with **V. Vincent**, Lower of the **Perennial Award**



Above from (left to right): **Lin A Trang** ,Upper 48, **Most Productive Upper Plot**, **A. Earl**, Lower 18 , **Most Productive Lower Plot**, **T. Nye**, Upper 28, **Chair's Award**

Chair's Notes

At this year's AGM I spoke about the 4 'Cs':

Communications has seen us install new big secure, waterproof noticeboards, increase usage on our website and Facebook page, regularly publish our Newsletters, offer online access to the National quarterly 'Allotment' magazine and install a new red post box at the Pavilion gate, where you can post suggestions, correspondence etc.

Co operation this year saw a small army of volunteers pollarding the Upper Plots, the seed swap being enhanced by a plant swap of some 700 plants and introduce a new National Kings Seeds initiative offering 40% discount off retail.

Importantly, we continue to look out for each other. Let us know if you need help.

Community projects have been one of our biggest focuses this year. We should all be very proud of our new Canary Wharf allotment. If you haven't seen it see it, or volunteered to help maintain it, do so. It is our advert to the world about who we are and what we do.

This year we have started to work closely with the Farm on many initiatives; education, planting etc. We showed our produce at this year's Farm Show and once again took the prizes.

We are working with schools and the children have helped at Canary Wharf. Our representation on the management of the London Branch of the National Society not only gives us input across London allotments, it also enables us to also learn from them.

Change. We have started to put the pride back in the allotments that we have been entrusted with. For too many years we have stood still unsure about our future. Today we are moving forward with security and purpose.

Martyn Daniels, Chair

Kings Seeds



This year we have signed up to the special seed purchasing arrangements for National Society members agreed between National and Kings Seeds. The initiative is widely used by many allotment societies across the country and the relationship between Kings and the National Society is very positive.

Under the initiative, Kings publish a special catalogue just for National members which is circulated via National. The prices within the catalogue are at some 40% discount to those available to the public via their normal catalogue or online and represent some cracking good value.

The catalogue is comprehensive and covers, vegetables, herbs and flower seeds, seed potatoes, fruit and trees etc.

We have half a dozen catalogues and if you are interested please contact Brian who will share the catalogues with you. All orders will be collated by Brian who will then place a consolidated order. Brian will also arrange the seeds to be distributed to you on their arrival.

All orders must be paid with order basis and you will get a copy of your order. The first consolidated order will be placed at the beginning of November. We will inform you when the next order will be placed and hope this initiative, along with our own seed swap, helps reduce the cost of your seeds.

We Are Now a Co-Op and Getting a 99 Year Lease!

We have been granted a seal and registration by the Financial Conduct Authority as the Isle of Dogs and District Allotment Society Ltd. At this year's AGM you voted to dissolve the old Society and adopt the new incorporated cooperative. It was agreed to move all assets and money to the new entity.

Today we are now a Co-op with the Constitutional and General Tenancy Rules which were voted by the membership to adopt last December.

Share certificates will be shortly issued to each plot. These will cost a one off fee of £2 and are transferable on leaving. We will present the share within a folder which will also contain the Constitution Rules and Tenancy General Rules. Please watch the notice board as to when these arrangements will be made.

The 99 year lease was also approved by LBTH Council Cabinet in June this year. A formal Lease document is now expected to be signed off very shortly. This will then be lodged with the Land Registry.

It has taken 25 years to address the tenancy issue but it has now been settled. In addition we have also been accepted by LBTH as a Statutory Allotment and our rights accepted within the Cabinet papers. Finally, together with the formal LBTH assurances given last year and those included within the Cabinet paper, our tenure and defined relationship with LBTH Council is now secure.

The Chair would like to thank all who have made this possible; past officers, LBTH archive, National's legal team and Regional Chair, the committee and officers who have supported the work over the last four years and finally yourselves for the support in securing and backing all our futures.

Personal Liability Insurance

All plot-holders in paying their Society rent subscription, automatically pay a £3 per plot holder National membership. This means you are now eligible to a new member benefit which gives you personal liability cover.

Unfortunately you are not automatically insured and must opt-in to the new benefit. If you do nothing you will not be insured . The point to note is that there is NO EXTRA COST to you as its already covered by your £3 membership. There is also no discount or refund given by National for those who decline to offer.

This is a liability insurance is designed to provide protection to member plot-holders accused of accidentally causing injury or damaging property. The benefit is worth up to £50,000 per National member and will pay for defence costs and the cost of any award made. As a member plot-holder you would be protected both at your allotment plot but also if you attend shows / events which are allotment related.

You might ask is personal liability insurance required? Unfortunately, there are situations where the Society's insurance cover does not cover you.

For Example: You might have caused an accident that could not be blamed on the Society. You may have operated a lawnmower over gravel, causing stones to fly up or the head of your axe flew off unexpectedly. Sparks from your fire carried and led to your neighbour's shed being burnt down.

Any of these situations could cause an injury or damage to property or others and could result in you being sued.

Remember its effectively free insurance but you must formally agree to having it. Please contact the Secretary and ensure you take advantage and remember its costs you nothing.

Poppy Field

We are working with Island History Trust and the Farm to establish a poppy field around the Ack Ack gun to remember islanders who gave their lives in conflict.

Canary Wharf Allotment

The allotment continues to attract much attention and was judged by RHS and Kew representatives as part of the Canary Wharf Group's 'Britain in Bloom' competition entry. We await the results but the judges were so interested they even came to view our allotments! Fingers crossed.



Education Programme

We worked with the Farm to provide cultivation education sessions over the summer. Such was the demand and response that they are to be repeated next year. Ideas to extend this are also in discussion.



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: chairman.iodadas@gmail.com

Community

Today the vast majority of residents live in flats and have no access to grow produce other than on limited balconies and window ledges. A whole generation is growing up without garden space whilst those who once enjoyed it no longer can afford it. Now imagine you are disabled, or on a long term recovery program or suffering mental health issues. There is little or nothing on offer.

At this year's AGM we outlined proposed disabled group plans which are being developed in conjunction with the Farm. It was agreed to proceed and keep members informed as these develop and to seek approvals were necessary. It is planned that this whole project will be sponsor funded and voluntarily worked.

The plan is to redesign the vacant paved space at the back of the pavilion and adjacent to the container. We have also been offered a secure and currently derelict piece of additional land by the Farm are working with them to create plans to build a number of high raised beds that can be used by a local disabled adult group. The operation will be fully supervised with the adults being transported back and forth and using the side entrance. The facility will only be accessed under supervision much like the school upper plot and they will be insured via their own liability insurance etc. Already the Farm has offered us an equivalent space next to their offices and sponsor interest is significant.

We must be aware that allotments are not just about growing produce, physical exercise and socialising, they offer proven health and well being benefits, purpose and mental stimulus.

Volunteers are welcome to help make these initiatives happen. Please contact Tatiana at events.iodadas@gmail.com