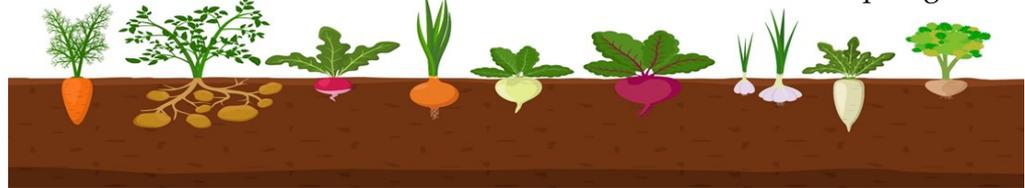




## Allotment Newsletter

Issue 4, Spring 2019



### Lease Update – Gearing Up To Secure Our Future

Following the successful vote to register with the FCA as an incorporated Cooperative under the sponsorship of the National Association, we have now secured your endorsement to adopt the registration and make the necessary changes to the model rules and our general rules.

The vote was signed off by the Management Committee and posted on the new noticeboards

We will keep you informed of progress and once achieved issue all with a full pack of rules and of course your share certificates.



Left: photo of the Mudchute in 1972. You can see the Lower allotments which were given to us in 1965 thanks to Lord Simon of PLA and Dr Ian Makardo MP.

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### Project Works

The full funding of the refurbishment of the old container has been achieved. Funding sponsors are: Canary Wharf Group, Waitrose, Asda and Royal Warrant Holders Charity Trust.

We have now started the work on the container which will be clad on the outside with half round timbers to resemble a log cabin and lined on the inside with plywood. We hope that the work will be completed by Summer.

In conjunction with the Farm we have been able to buy the half round timbers at a discount and these will be delivered along with the Farm's order. This is an example of the new working arrangements with the Farm Management which are a direct result of the lease arrangements and a fresh relationship adopted by all.

## Chair Notes

It is important that we not only secure our future through the 99 year lease, but we start to forge new relationships with LBTH, the Mudchute Farm and the local community. The work currently undertaken not only continues the hard work of our Past Chair, Paula, but starts to engage us with the community.

Allotments aren't just about growing fruit and vegetables for some they are a place to meet others, for others they are a means of keeping fit and healthy and for some they can help deal with dishabituating illnesses and recovery.

We can now start to establish a dialogue with LBTH Parks Department, together with Social Services and Education. The new relationship with the Farm is now being built on mutuality and understanding, leaving behind the old adversarial days.

One area I'd like to improve is communication within the Society. We have invested in smart new noticeboards. We don't all have email, Facebook, or use text on our phones, so we must find ways to get our messages across, promote your suggestions and remove the need to send by post huge amounts of information at ever increasing cost. I have started to hold Surgeries where you are all welcome to sit down with me and discuss whatever you wish. Whether it be an issue, or an opportunity to take us forward, the door is open.

At the AGM I stated the case for a Code of Conduct. We have all experienced behaviour which has spoilt meeting for many. I hope this will now end and a code of conduct be adopted by all which encourages discussion but also respects collective responsibility. The future is about moving forward together and not repetitively going over old ground which has already been decided.

Martyn Daniels, Chair

## Celebrating the Harvest

Last August the London Branch held a 'Celebrating the Harvest' meeting in our pavilion which was attended by many London Societies. Members were invited to talk about what they particularly liked and enjoyed growing and this was published in the 'Allotment' magazine this year.

We are proud that our own Vice Chair's contribution was featured in the article.

**London Peculiar**

At the August 2018 meeting of the London Branch we had 'Celebrating the Harvest' as the theme of the meeting. Members present were invited to talk about what they particularly liked and enjoyed growing. It was very much a London-themed exercise, but one which could be repeated elsewhere with a little research. Some interesting regional variations. Here are the London produce with given names and site affiliations.

**Chee (Folkestone Road, Newham)**  
Asian pear (pear) - a tree with a 20-year cropping lifetime. It is usually shaped like an apple. It is crisp and crunchy to the taste but a different species (Pyrus pyrifolia).

**Mildred (South of Cheyenne approach - a plant common in the tropics with a habit reflecting one of its other common names: vine sprout. Easily grown but needs warmth - never in Boston.**

**Joan (Kingston Federation)**  
Sorrel - an underappreciated herb with luscious tasting seeds.

**Tulliana (Isle of Dogs, Tower Hamlets)**  
Curry leaf - a small tree with compound leaves. Essential ingredient in many curries.

**Cucumbers - another sprawling plant. Easy to grow and on the Kings' list. Grapesized watermelon which comes complete with stripes and a taste of cucumber with lime.**

**Yard Long cucumbers - also known as Armenian cucumbers and at the opposite end of the size range from cucumbers. It also resembles all of the other crops and variety in the cucurbit.**

**Japanese honey bean (adzuki bean) - another distinctive Asian crop. The beans of the annual plant are usually red, cooked with sugar and used most commonly as a dessert porridge.**

**Brian (Roding Farm, Waltham Forest)**  
Lemon - an understated herb, very aromatic and good for soups.

**Jill (Roding Farm, Waltham Forest)**  
Lemon Crystal cucumber - a yellow tennis ball-sized cucumber which does not seem to appear often in retail outlets. The size means it can be consumed in one meal rather than stored in the fridge for days on end and just to make sure it all gets used.

**Candice (Beatrix Potter, Wandsworth)**  
Chickpeas - easy to grow, sweet when fresh but often dried for 'over winter' use in more substantial meals.

**Andy (Bighamwood, Croydon)**  
White - saved used in salads.

**White corn - a variety of maize, one of the world's great cereal crops. In its native Latin America, it is a part of much variety, not all of which has come across the Atlantic. There are cobs containing a variety of colours and all white cobs are one colour selection that have made the commercial grade.**

**Tony (Chadwell Heath, Redbridge)**  
Pink Fir Apple & Ratte - both are lovely salad potatoes with exactly the right waxy texture. Pink Fir in particular can be kept in the ground still late in the year as its firm texture keeps the spuds at bay. The hard core keeps the spuds firm for Christmas.

There was a pollard mummified cob of approval for the spud quality for Christmas. With storage, its early waxy texture means but it keeps well into the following year.

**Dorothy (Kingston Vale, Kingston)**  
Isabroy - one of the best hybrid borers. Good flavor and crisp from a plant bought at a school fair.

**Jill Barber**

**Lea Adri-Sosjiko**

On November 20th last year she gave the Old Billings (Boris) (Boris Mohammed) guilty of the murder of Lea Adri-Sosjiko, the Secretary of the Cotswold Allotment Society.

On 20th November she was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 18 years.

It was a relief after the jury at the trial had in charge liked to hear a verdict.

Between the two trials the Chairman of the Cotswold Allotment Society, Olive Critchley died.

'Curry leaf, a small tree with compound leaves. Essential ingredient in many curries. Cucamelons, another scrambling plant. Easy to grow and on the Kings' list. Grapesized watermelon, which comes complete with stripes and a taste of cucumber with lime. Yard Long cucumbers, also known as Armenian cucumbers and at the opposite end of the size range from cucamelons. It also reminds us of the sheer range and variety in the cucurbits. Japanese honey bean (adzuki bean), another distinctive Asian crop. The beans of this annual are usually red, cooked with sugar and used most commonly as a dessert porridge.'

## The Upper Plots Get Light

Thanks to volunteers and fine weather the south and western sides of the upper plots have been pollarded. The work was agreed with the Farm and we were allowed to cut back to the fence height and create a 'dry hedge' with the cut timbers.



The exercise let in a significant amount of light onto the plots and we didn't have to burn the cut timbers. The creation of a 'dry hedge' will allow new shoots to grow through and create a living dense hedge. This will encourage wildlife and also help keep unwanted wildlife out.

## What you could be sowing and planting now

### April

**Greenhouse:** Sow the seeds of outdoor tomatoes, pumpkins, squashes, courgettes, sweetcorn, outdoor/ridge cucumbers. Sow runner beans, dwarf and climbing French beans. Plant; tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers into their final positions

**Outside :** Sow the seeds of maincrop peas, broad beans, lettuce, beetroot, kohlrabi, early turnips, Swiss chard, spinach, radish, carrots and parsnips. On a seedbed, sow leeks, summer cabbage and broccoli. Carry on thinning previously sown seedlings to transplant towards the end of the month. Plant; complete the planting of onion sets and the second early and maincrop potatoes. Transplant earlier sown lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, celeriac, peas, broad beans, beetroot and spinach.

### May

**Greenhouse:** last sowings for planting out towards the end of the month. Don't start feeding tomatoes until the flowers on the first truss has set. Keep on top of the side shoots; snap them out when they are about 5cms/2ins long. Set up sticky traps to catch aphids and whitefly.

**Outside:** Savoy cabbage, Kale, winter cabbage, broccoli, Calabrese, winter cauliflower, radicchio, endive, chicory, Florence fennel, swede, beetroot, turnips, mange tout peas, carrots. Last chance to sow parsnips, main crop beetroot and peas. Plant; celeriac, sweetcorn, courgettes, marrows, pumpkins and squashes, outdoor tomatoes, leeks, French beans, runner beans, Brussels sprouts, leeks. Don't transplant during cold spells to avoid giving the plants a check.

## Seed Swap



'Plants for free' has arrived on the allotments and March is that time we all look at what you want to grow and what seeds you have. We all have unwanted seeds, or merely would like to try to grow something new. We may have collected our own seeds and we would love to share with others.

At the beginning of March, we held an event aimed at promoting seed sharing and swapping and many turned up.

What's next? Maybe an event to share and swap all those excess seedlings and plants we all grow and either throw away, or try squeezing into any space we can find! A second event is being planned for May with lots of plants to be given away.



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

[www.iodadas.com](http://www.iodadas.com)

To contact the Editor with photos, ideas, articles and corrections: [isleofdoganddistrictallotments@gmail.com](mailto:isleofdoganddistrictallotments@gmail.com)

## London Branch

We are pleased to announce that Chair, Martyn Daniels has been elected onto the Management Committee of the new London Branch of the National Society.

Also our ex Chair, Paula Owen has been asked to become joint Mentor for the London Branch which involves helping all societies in all aspects of cultivation, bio diversity etc.

## Hampton Court Flower Show

The National Society has been invited to participate in the Hampton Court Garden Festival, 2nd to 7th July in the new Community Allotment Section. The London Branch will be heavily involved and the theme will be "The Recycled Allotment."

The use of recycled materials will symbolise the need to garden mindfully, reduce waste and carefully consider plastic use. It will also illustrate to show-visitors that fruit and vegetables can be grown in small spaces and containers.

Use of a collection of re-purposed materials as plant supports and vessels will display a selection of seasonal fruit, herbs, flowers and vegetables that reflect the diversity of UK gardeners. A small part of the plot will be laid out as a leisure area to signify the social benefits of allotment gardening.

Watch the notice boards to find out more updates to come as this exciting opportunity develops!