



Monthly Meeting | 03 March 2012 Minutes

Present

Erwan Guillo-Lohan (Chair)	Germano Di Chello
Ashley McCormick (Treasurer)	George
Jen Currier	Charlie Seber
Hamish Liddle	Louis French
Andreas Lang	Tim French (Vice-Chair)
Fiona Pettitt	Cath French
Alison Gibson	Lydia Thornley
Loothfur Sattar	Chris
Lesley Thomson	Fiona Bloom (Secretary)

Topics

Adoption of new constitution, update on charity status, fundraising update, finance update, events group update, infrastructure update, communication, any other business.

New Season Welcome

- Erwan welcomed everyone to the first session of the new season. It was agreed that Tuesday and Thursday sessions would start from the following week. The six hour sessions will start on Saturday 10 March.

Adoption of New Constitution

- This has previously been discussed but never formally adopted. Members voted unanimously. The constitution will be signed by Erwan, Lydia, Tim, Andreas, Nina and Fiona B. This will be uploaded onto the website.

Fundraising

- It has been confirmed that Friends of the Abbey Gardens have secured three years funding from The Tudor Trust. £7,000 for the first year, £6,000 for the second year and £5,000 for the third year. The funds are unrestricted although The Tudor Trust recommended that FOAG investigate the possibility of a permanent toilet. Erwan extended thanks to Alison, Fiona P, Cath and Lydia for all their hard work on the application.
- Charlie has been in discussion with LUSH regarding possible funding. LUSH donate up to £20,000 to charitable causes. FP is to investigate this further.
- FOAG will be applying for an event grant through the 'Get The Party Started' scheme.
- FOAG is expecting to raise £1,200 from tea and cake sales at events.

Charity Registration

- The constitution, Tudor Trust letter, Trustee's declarations will be uploaded on 04 March 2012 for the Charity Registration. FOAG should receive a decision from the Charity Commission before the next meeting.

Finance

- FOAG currently holds approximately £4,400.
- The running of the FOAG bank account has been transferred from former Treasurer Dasha to new Treasurer Ashley; Dasha will remain a signatory on the account'.

Events

- Hamish is to contact MIND Resources to discuss another workshop.
- It was suggested that local retirement / residential homes are contacted for afternoon sessions - Charlie would be able to give a talk and tea / cakes would be provided.
- An Outreach brainstorming session will be held on 10 March 2012. This will be updated on the blog, Twitter, Facebook.
- Spring Event
 - It will be held 14 April 2012 which is the beginning of the RHS National Gardening Week
 - There will be 'Up-Cycle' window boxes. Members are asked to bring along any objects they think will be suitable. It has not been decided if wild flowers or herb seeds will be used for planting.
 - There will be a Garden Tour with Hamish and a Bug Hunt with Petra / Marleen. Possibility of joining the Bug Hunt with a Spring Treasure Hunt.
 - It was suggested that there is a table with 'Ask Hamish' or a general Gardeners Q&A session.
 - Tea, cake and savoury snacks will be available.
 - There will be a coach of people from CVS Ipswich, organised by Leah Douglas, of 40 people. They are interested in seeing what community volunteers are capable of creating.
- The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens has agreed to publicise FOAG events and may be able to assist with funding for FOAG visits to other events.
- FOAG events and gardening sessions will be published in the Newham magazine.
- Jen and Lydia to check if community walk can either start or end at Abbey Gardens for the Summer Event.
- On 03 June 2012 there will be a 'Big Lunch' to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The Summer Event will be 09 June 2012 which coincides with Open Garden Squares weekend.
 - Proposed Ideas for this event Include: an emphasis on healthy eating.
 - Making a picnic blanket - each visitor to the garden to make one patch, all patches will be collected at the end of the day and will be sewn together in time for use at the Harvest Festival. This will be kept in the cabin for future use.
 - Alfresco Tai Chi - possibly taught by Nina's teacher or Gordon
 - A workshop on creating and maintaining gardens for people with disabilities.
- It has been proposed that FOAG hosts a Film evening on 13 July 2012. Lydia and Jen to Investigate this further - costs and licensing etc. FOAG will consider contacting Stratford Picture House for possible involvement in picture night. There is also a possibility of combining this with the Olympics opening ceremony.
- The Harvest Festival will be on the 22 September 2012 and will be part of the four year celebration of FOAG. The event will showcase both the gardens and the people involved.
 - Creative writing with Olly
 - Photography with Tim
 - Chess with Charlie
 - Sketch workshop with Fiona P
 - FOAG are discussing a demonstration with the Ministry of Food - this will be confirmed nearer the time.
- For the winter celebration there will be soup, mulled wine and carol singing.

Infrastructure

- Construction of Charlie's Greenhouse has begun and should be completed by 10 March 2012.
- Andreas showed members sketches of the proposed kitchen. Plans will be drafted in due course.
- Risk assessment to be completed on gas.

Communications

- Olly has set up a Twitter account (@_abbeygardens), a Flickr account and a Facebook account for Abbey Gardens.
- Lydia to email events calendar to The Guardian to be included in The Guardian's gardening blog.
- FOAG has been contacted by Tesco magazine - would FOAG like to feature. FOAG has decided to not take part with this.
- FOAG has been contacted by Liz Shearer to run a 'Get Growing' workshop at the Sarah Bonnell School on 17 March 2012. Hamish, Jason and Charlie are interested in attending this.
- Ashley to contact The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens regarding free financial advice sessions that they run.

Any Other Business

- Rat Control
 - Hamish mentioned the rat situation, rats are gathering at the back of the cabin and by the compost bins.
 - FOAG will make sure everything is done to prevent needing to get pest control in.
 - Move compost bins away from the cabin and put up a sign indicating what cannot be put in (e.g. cooked food)
 - Tidy up around cabin and make sure this area remains clear and tidy.
- Hose Pipe Ban
 - Check with Liz Shearer if this is applicable for FOAG.
 - If it is applicable it will be discussed at the next meeting on how we can keep watering through the ban.

Next meeting 07 April 2012.