

Monthly meeting | 05 Feb 2011 Minutes

Present

Dasha French <i>Treasurer</i>	Jen Currier	Jason Lennon
Lydia Thornley <i>Secretary</i>	Terri Quaye	Louis French
Hamish Liddle	Charlie Seber	Nina's friend Michael [observing for medicinal plants project]
Alison Gibson	Oliver Redfern	
Nina Pope	Kevin Ward	

Topics

Mission

- Meeting to be held 5 Mar to discuss how we would like the garden and the friends' group to run in the future. This will also be the first gardening session of the season.

Fundraising

- Tudor Trust second round application is progressing well and looking likely. If we are successful, the money might not come through until April but we will resume Saturday gardening sessions with our own funds and extend these when funding comes through.
- Fundraising for MIND has been successful, securing £1000 to run sessions from April to September.
- Possible Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities grant application to be put on agenda for 5 March meeting as this would require a five-year plan.
- Transformers Olympic-themed fund felt to be a good fit for our activities and worth applying for. One-stage application, deadline 28 April. Alison will do the application.
- Sustainability of garden: events and sales at outreach events discussed as of continuing importance in generating funds.
- Pop-up café discussed as a possibility for the Olympics.

Boundary

- We will accept the £250; meanwhile there has been some slight levelling of the boundary. Agreed to spend the money on planting for the boundary.

Outreach

- Boost event in Forest Gate 19 February: More bakers needed as numbers expected to be high; Ashley has asked for banners [Lydia to prepare artwork, Louis to print] and name labels. Elisabetta and Gary making soup, agreed that 200 portions should be supplied. Their cards and a thank-you to be on the stall. Board required with information that cakes made by volunteers in their homes.

Ashley has secured a donation for the workshops. Ollie and Kevin will help with either the workshops or the catering on the day, as needed. Additional volunteers: Terri; Jason. Jen will bake. Dasha will bake, availability on the day not yet known.

- | Another outreach event possible: Newham Council in Manor Park on 12 March. This event will be arts, crafts and sports: opportunity to provide tea and cake.

Gardening

- | New seeds in for next season.
- | Garden club sessions start on 5 March.
- | Volunteers requested to start off aubergine and chilli seedlings indoors.
- | Work has been done on digging for the wildflower strip; gardeners can continue on the far side of the fence.
- | Parsnip and carrot beds can be dug over.
- | Clearing can wait until first gardening session.

Toilet

- | Arriving in March; will be replaced with fully accessible toilet if funding successful.

First aid training

- | Hamish has done first aid training.

Sponsorship

- | Wahaca offer discussed as trial, offering one bed of herb as an experiment to see how plant grows and if arrangement works. Donation could be financial or in kind [eg cooking for events] with Abbey Gardens publicised at restaurants. Erwan suggested as someone who might like to carry negotiations forward.

AOB

- | Apple session: discussion with postgraduate student doing a paper on apple growing and eating in London. Proposed for 5 March at midday. Lydia to find out more about apples available for tasting and where Poppy is studying.
- | The People's Supermarket: Lydia's client to find out for us whether it plans to source from local food growing projects. If it does, introduction to be made.
- | Registration forms to be updated to include next of kin and photo release [Kevin].
- | Alison to register us for free RHS *It's Your Neighbourhood* scheme
- | Conduct information to include advice to wear gloves and steel toe-capped boots. If gardeners feel unwell, advice to let someone know as soon as possible.
- | Nina's friend Michael outlined *Phytology* project for Summer: medicinal plants in forgotten urban spaces. More information on nomad.org.uk
- | More shelving needed for meeting space in cabin. Freecycle suggested.
- | Agreed to register for The Big Lunch.