

Monthly meeting | 08 January 2011 Minutes

Present

Erwan Guillo Lohan <i>Chair</i>	Torange Khonsari
Tim French <i>Vice Chair</i>	Andreas Lang
Dasha French <i>Treasurer</i>	Jen Currier
Lydia Thornley <i>Secretary</i>	Terri Quaye
Hamish Liddle	Charlie Seber
Alison Gibson	Erwan's friend [observing for Paris project]

Topics

Mission

- | Meeting to be held 5 Feb to discuss how we would like the garden and the friends' group to run in the future

Fundraising

- | Application to Tudor Trust has qualified for second round. Tudor Trust has asked for a copy of our constitution, which they have and are looking at. They give support to organisations making second-round applications.
- | Application to Westfield for £1,000 pending. Deadline is end of February. Decision on what to apply for to be made after 5 Feb meeting. Cooking events discussed.
- | Go For It grants established not to cover website development but could fund one-off events
- | Chiltern Seeds sponsorship: Hamish drawing-up list to check against the website. Alison to place order, having been introduced as new contact.
- | Publicity costs to be reduced this year. 2010's spend included grant-funded materials which have given us good stocks for this year's events, the calendar, which paid for itself in sales, and flyers, which we have printed at low cost. Scope for reduction includes garden club session information, which could be laserprinted by friends' group members as needed.
- | MIND would like group sessions for 25 weeks Apr-Sept. They have asked us to fundraise: £1000 application made to the Mental Health Roadshow grant offered by the Newham Mental Health Partnership Board, £750 for sessions, £250 for supplies.
- | Possible Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities grant application, min £10,000 per year over five years, to be discussed after 5 Feb meeting.
- | Agreed that if funding bids still pending we will start the growing session with Saturday gardening sessions but aim to achieve a full programme.

- | Sustainability of garden: events and sales at outreach events discussed as important in generating funds. London Borough of Newham's film and photography location office discussed as good to register with if licence allows. To be looked-into.
 - | Gardeners could use the garden for their celebrations/events for a donation. Charlie expressed interest for his birthday party.
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Boundary

- | Tim has been in touch with Kevin and Mark Perkins and opinion is that support from Skanska looking unlikely but LB Newham can look at remediation. Liz Shearer will be asked to fix meeting with public realm team to discuss how boundary and remediation could work. Tim to email DLR; if no support likely before handover from Skanska to DLR on 3 March, agreed that we will settle with Skanska for £500.
 - | Charlie's proposal for edible fence to be considered when we know position on boundary.
 - | Compost store to be built by Tim and Louis by end of March.
 - | Charlie has 'bug hotel' [formed from logs] which could be sited by tree - agreed that it would be a good thing to have in the garden
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Compost and fertiliser

- | Charlie has brought horse manure bin - Charlie and Erwan to collect later in Jan.
 - | Pigeon manure for comfrey - Erwan to look into possible sources
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Gardening

- | Garden Organic seeds to add to Hamish's list
 - | Planting plan ready to be put up in cabin
 - | Hamish has vegetable planting list and is doing a stocktake of seeds
 - | Schedule of works in the run-up to gardening season: wildflower seed preparation and clearing. Note requested of which plants can be pulled out and which should be trimmed
 - | 5 Feb scheduled for wildflower seed preparation session with Hamish, subject to weather.
 - | Tender fruit trees - fleece only arrived yesterday; have been protected with straw as a temporary measure
 - | Charlie has suggested topiary for sycamore tree - to bring pictures for next meeting
 - | Where outside groups would like to book gardening sessions, Hamish suggested deposit from group and payment in advance for two sessions
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Toilet

- | Dasha researching; to be discussed at next meeting
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Calendars

- | Largely due to fantastic sales effort by Erwan and Jen, only seven left, with Erwan and Jen holding another five or six which are allocated to people. Some now held back for funder information and thanks to key supporters.

- Events and outreach**
- | Stratford Christmas market - very low visitor numbers in very cold venue.
 - | Next event 19 Feb at new school in Forest Gate. Ashley to coordinate. Suggested healthy food: soups, cakes with healthy ingredients or low-fat. Suggested workshops: seed identification, planting mustard and cress, growing sprouting seeds. Hamish willing to help if available. Dasha, Lydia, Alison and Terri are also available for event.
 - | 28 Feb Age UK pampering day - Terri to run stall, Dasha to prepare box of materials
 - | People involved in events cooking to do food hygiene course that Dasha did. Alison will do it. George and Jason suggested.
 - | Possible links to be made with Hartley Centre's community café [Lydia]
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- Open Squares**
- | Abbey Gardens now in book
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- Capital Growth**
- | Banner to be taken down or moved towards station
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- First Aid training**
- | Hamish to choose location and timing of course