Monthly meeting | 17 April 2010  Minutes

Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friends of Abbey Gardens</th>
<th>Alison Gibson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dasha French</td>
<td>Darek Petlicki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andreas Lang</td>
<td>Eliza Petlicka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamish Liddle</td>
<td>Ashley McCormick</td>
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<td>Tim French</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
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<td>Cath French</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<td>Lydia Thornley</td>
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| Somewhere               | Karen Guthrie |

Topics

Planting

- Planting plan for 2010 is in place, being implemented by Hamish
- Citrus trees: trench to be marked and prepared. Grown in fan shape against wall
- Choice of labels: recycled teak from Thai furniture industry. Chinagraph pencils to be bought for marking
- Bark has been removed from front triangle.
- Family apple tree has arrived and been planted
- New fruit trees to be watered well once a fortnight.

Events

- Wildflower seeding event went well
- RHYZOM workshop well-received. Kathrin has reported back
- Exhibition up at Stratford Library [Lydia to post to blog]
- Open Garden Squares Weekend 12+13 June to be our Groundwork launch event. Honesty stall, teas, plant sale. ‘Ask Hamish’ stall, self-assembly trugs, packets of sunflower seeds, postcards, other ideas needed for activities and fundraising opportunities. Posters and promotional materials are provided; FOAG to do own promotion locally.
- Nina meeting Marion Blair from Open Garden Squares Weekend 24 Apr - FOAG members can come along
- Establish what we can sell where. We can produce materials for sale as long as they are not LB Newham branded.
18 July [Sun] The Big Lunch

Mid Aug flower arranging plus demonstrations related to the plant database
Lydia to ask Joanne Cass if she is interested

4 Sept Harvest festival

9 Oct The Big Draw + soup

FOAG members to feed back on their availability for these main events

West Ham Church fete in June. Dasha to check dates and possible FOAG presence there

Dasha went to Capital Growth networking event

Food hygiene training for volunteers discussed plus informal dialogue re: event requirements.

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<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Thames Water have approved water connection</th>
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<td>Contractors to go through snagging list including fence footings and trip hazards</td>
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<td>Solar panel has been installed to lights, capability to add batteries and inverter for sockets</td>
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<td>Louis to run pipe from gutter</td>
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<td>Gate: changes being discussed before design finalised; English Heritage being consulted re: post depth. Awaiting new quotes for gate with fixed honesty stall before invoice can be obtained and paid. [Andreas]</td>
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<td>Grass cutting: agreement/frequency to be checked with Liz and monitored [Tim]</td>
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<td>Hallway of cabin to be kitchen area. Shelves added, sink to be added</td>
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<td>Portable sink to be researched for harvesting [Tim]</td>
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<td>Heavy duty storage to be sourced for tool store [Tim]</td>
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<td>Eco-shed to be fixed [Torange to organise, poss volunteers from Nina’s students]</td>
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<td>More benches needed Karen to send spec to Andreas to obtain quote</td>
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| Honesty stall | One fixed, one mobile - Andreas working on drawings. One of the fence contractors probable to make |

| Plant database | Nina and Karen will organise presentation on how database will work this season |
### Fundraising
- Subsequent Go For It grants to be used for 2010 events
- Groundworks sustainability grants (£2000 + £1500) to be used for GCL into 2010
- Ideas needed for purchases to use up existing grant by June deadline:
  - Hamish to recommend tools + possibly more durable greenhouse
  - Lydia to get quote for postcards reprint
  - Louis and Tim researching polytunnel
- Skanska will fund plant screen - planter discussed with additional planter for outside cabin. To use sleepers with 8 metal corners made by gate people [Andreas]

### Sessions and organised visits
- Reminder for people to sign in, new members to fill out registration form
- Manor School session every other week - to be tried-out. CRB check on way for Hamish.
- From May, active centre sessions for older people; Tues 10-12.30 + workshop once a month. Newham Warm Centres paying for session and refreshments.
- West Ham Church bike ride - Dasha to check timing
- One on one sessions with worker + client from local unit - Hamish to allocate tasks
- Information sheet plus application form for groups wanting to use the garden [eg autistic group]. To include hourly rate, insurance requirements, supervision and maximum group size. [Dasha and Lydia with input from Liz]

### Publicity
- Postcards to be distributed freely - visitors to be given card/flyer to take away
- Linda to update noticeboard poster [Nina]
- Newham Mag now featuring us in activities as well as in In Focus
- Reciprocal publicity with other gardens and city farms - they take our materials, we take theirs [Lydia]
- Karen asked for an admin for the facebook group [Lydia]
- Funder logos on website to be updated - Lydia to send to Andreas
- A4 Leaflet in local languages asking for help planting specific things: Farsi, Polish, Bengali [FOAG + Lydia + Lydia’s supplier World Accent for typesetting]

### AOB
- More mulch: North London Waste Authority
- Manure: police stables or stables in Wanstead
- Enquiries to be handled by Hamish via answerphone or hamish@abbeygardens.org
- Comfrey supply - possible issue re: contamination, could grow on-site
- Shredder hire - possible annual event
- More active committee people + volunteer needed for next Chair