

# FRIENDS OF ABBEY GARDENS

## Monthly meeting | 17 April 2010 Minutes

### Present

Friends of Abbey Gardens	Dasha French	Alison Gibson
	Andreas Lang	Darek Petlicki
	Hamish Liddle	Eliza Petlicka
	Tim French	Ashley McCormick
	Cath French	Charlie
	Lydia Thornley	Alex
	Somewhere	Karen Guthrie

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### 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.

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- 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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## Infrastructure

- | Thames Water have approved water connection
- | Contractors to go through snagging list including fence footings and trip hazards
- | Solar panel has been installed to lights, capability to add batteries and inverter for sockets
- | Louis to run pipe from gutter
- | 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]**
- | Grass cutting: agreement/frequency to be checked with Liz and monitored **[Tim]**
- | Hallway of cabin to be kitchen area. Shelves added, sink to be added
- | Portable sink to be researched for harvesting **[Tim]**
- | Heavy duty storage to be sourced for tool store **[Tim]**
- | Eco-shed to be fixed **[Torange to organise, poss volunteers from Nina's students]**
- | More benches needed **Karen to send spec to Andreas to obtain quote**

## Honesty stall

- | One fixed, one mobile - Andreas working on drawings. One of the fence contractors probable to make

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## 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]
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## 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]
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## 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]
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## 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