

# FRIENDS OF ABBEY GARDENS

## Monthly meeting | 6 March 2010 Minutes

### Present

Friends of Abbey Gardens	Andreas Lang Tim French Cath French Dasha French Victoria Lee	Darek Petlicki Eliza Petlicki Russel Ashley McCormick
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Somewhere Nina Pope

LB Newham Liz Shearer

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### Topics

#### Planting

- | Planting plan for 2010 is in place
- | Nina will mark the trench for planting citrus trees, trench to be prepared on Sat 13th March
- | Most beds have been cleared and are prepared for the next season. We are invited to harvest the last brassicas so that these can also be taken out and composted
- | We must do better at labelling this season. Karen is sourcing lollipop shaped large labels
- | Dasha assumed the contractors will remove the bark from the front triangle as part of the ground preparation for grass seeding (to be confirmed)
- | Once the front triangle has been prepared it should be roped off to discourage foot traffic
- | Family apple tree will arrive this week and can be planted on 13th March.  
**Tree is likely to arrive next Saturday**
- | New fruit trees must be watered at least every other day in dry weather

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#### Events & Outreach

- | Wildflower seeding on 20th March is going ahead. Kevin will discuss with the contractors to prepare the ground prior to 20th March and grass seed at a later date. **(LS to chase)**
- | Dasha stated that no-one replied to the e-mail asking for volunteers for the event on 20th March. Dasha will resend the e-mail suggesting the names for tasks. This is expected to be a small scale event.
- | It was decided that we should decide on the dates for other events now and keep these dates free. Dasha will e-mail the proposed dates.

- | Tim Olden's brother (Michael Olden) would like to lead on the Big Draw on 9 October.
  - | Andreas informed everyone about the workshop he would like to run at AG in the portacabin on behalf of his practise "Public Works" in collaboration with somewhere, Invitation for participation will be send out to FOAG members / mailing list shortly. Liz confirmed that this will be ok regarding our licence terms.
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### Infrastructure

- | Thames Water needed access to the case sheltering the water tap. Nobody seems to have the key to this padlock. Dasha to ask Chris about this.
  - | The contractors have got snagging list regarding the work done so far. Ground preparation for seeding - see above.
  - | Louis to run the pipe from the gutter on the roadside of the cabin to divert the water to the big water butt. Alternatively we could buy a smaller water butt to place behind the cabin.
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### Honesty Stall

- | Andreas presented proposal for the fixed honesty stall as part of the fence as well as a mobile stall which could serve several purposes. Also the proposal for the new gate was presented. Andreas is to get quotes for the gates and fixed honesty stall panel and to progress with the design of the mobile stall.
  - | Dasha noted that the physical work should be finished or well under way by the end of March.
  - | Andreas proposed that the new gate should be in the middle of the fence on right hand side of the sycamore tree observed from the road.
  - | Dasha asked how we could have the kerb sloped to allow easier access via the new gate. **Liz is going to supply the name of the person responsible for this at Newham Council.**
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### Fundraising

- | We have 3K in place for the GCL this season
  - | Westfield application has not been successful
  - | Go for it grant has been submitted and we are awaiting response
  - | We should check Awards for all to see what could be covered by this grant in the future
  - | Nina would like to apply for a Go For It grant on behalf of Somewhere to complete the film about the first season if Somewhere is eligible to apply otherwise this would have to also go through FOAG. **Somewhere will check with council about this.**
  - | We should start thinking how AG should be run in next year and into the future and how the GCL position might evolve.
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### Plant database

- | Nina is finishing last season's entries, after which last season will be archived
- | Working with Dorian Moore Somewhere are striving to improve both the ease of use of this section and to add additional functionality such as a list page of all the plants in the garden.

- | It is important to establish how much of the GCL time this will take, it was agreed that this year recording what happens in the garden will be an integral part of the role rather than an additional task.
  - | Nina suggested several FOAG members should have access to update the database and that the responsibility could be spread among interested garden users.
  - | Tim had a few suggestions how to make the database easier to use
  - | Nina to make a dedicated database presentation to the group
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**AOB**

- | Mobile toilet will be delivered on 15 March and placed at the DLR end of the garden. This is a fully accessible toilet
  - | Re: other specific groups using AG - Liz will check if charging groups is OK with the licence, but for now she has given the OK to proceed with this idea and come up with a 'per hour' fee for groups to cover the GCL fee plus FOAG overheads.
  - | Active summer centres update, these sessions will run from May to September and as soon as the new GCL is in place we will arrange the details.
  - | We should think about the suitable hourly rate for other groups but this will depend on the ways these groups operate their admin
  - | We should distribute the postcards around Stratford in all suitable places
  - | Kevin should follow up on the western boundary with the DLR. Preferred solution would be a fence with the hedge (Some debate about this!)
  - | We need to find out who should remove the debris after the fence has been repaired.
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**Garden Club Leader**

- | Feedback from Nina, Liz and FOAG about last year's GCL and what we are looking for this year. Important points raised included:
  - | Need to keep times of sessions consistent across the season
  - | Candidate must have excellent interpersonal skills
  - | Need for GCL to have a high level of horticultural knowledge this year
  - | Importance of timekeeping and flexible approach to hours
  - | Importance of good admin skills and willingness to record what happens in the garden
- Relating to this Liz outlined the plans for Newham to evaluate AG as a flagship project this season, GCL will need to facilitate this.
- | We discussed how much management the GCL would need
- | GCL may need to take more of a lead at events this year
- | We decided on a provisional schedule for the Garden Club sessions this year TBC as soon as GCL is appointed.
- | 5 candidates shortlisted
- | We decided specific questions for each candidate and how the interviews will be conducted
- | Dasha to e-mail the accepted candidates, Torange to e-mail the unsuccessful ones
- | Dasha to adjust the contract for this year
- | Dasha with Andreas to manage the new GCL