

Walworth Community Garden Network
Zoom members meeting
19th November 2020 at 7pm

1. Present: Richard Galpin (Vice Chair; Alberta Fruit Commons), Debbie Michener (co-ordinator), Peter Balazs (Treasurer; Tabard), Patrick Goodwin (Brandon), Andrew Brownlee (Pasley Estate), Helene Ok (Brandon), Christina Wheatley (Edible Rotherhithe), Lucy Talbot (Greener Bermondsey), Siobhan (Brandon), Tom Lloyd (Brandon), Sam Jones (Gibbings House), Karen Hepworth (Berwick Court), Humaira Ali (Councillor London Bridge & West Bermondsey), Olivia Carlton (note taker; Walworth Allotment Association – Fielding St).

Apologies: Carol Wheatley (Newington TRA), Robert Zammit-Pace (Brandon gardener), Sandy Newborn (Kennington Park Rd community garden)

2. Introduction

We've had a lot of feedback that what people want is to talk to each other and hear about what others are doing, rather than the bureaucracy of how we need to be set up.

3. Talks about gardens and gardening

- a. Presentation from Brandon Gardeners. Tom made an introduction. Siobhan talked about tomatoes. Helene talked about compost. Patrick talked about dahlias and the squirrels stealing the fruit from fruit trees.
- b. Film from Sandy Newborn about their garden (Kennington Park Rd TRA garden)
- c. Christina – Edible Rotherhithe and Surrey Square School. A school where they are growing their own food, and that food goes to their school kitchen. Edible Rotherhithe has a website – the children have had lessons in printmaking – the products can be acquired (including aprons) for a donation from their website <https://ediblerotherhithe.org.uk/donate/>
- d. Carole told us about Walworth Allotment Association - Fielding St allotments.
- e. Discussions after each talk and a more general talk at the end of this section covered issues including compost, foxes and tomatoes.

4. General discussion.

- a. Peter talked about using Good Gym – a group of volunteers who will come to help. They tend to be available only during evenings and at weekends. Their input is time limited – you get half an hour of their time. They run to your site, they do the work and then they run away. Think about what ten or so people can do in half an hour and make sure you've done the preparation so you can use their offer of physical activity. It's important to be very specific about what you want them to do. And you need to provide tools, gloves etc. They are prepared to do any physical activity. Go to the website and check your area – you can see

what kind of work they are wanting to do over the next few weeks.

- b. Andrew Brownlee talked about the community garden that they'd like to develop on the Pasley Estate. They've got a relatively small area. They've applied for CGS funding. Discussion about water supply.

5. Brief account of the activities of the management team.

- a. The website has been repeatedly hacked. Please don't use it at the moment. We are getting help to fix it and will let everyone know through the Whatsapp group and email newsletter when it is safe and secure.
- b. Vince handed over the role of Treasurer to Peter in the summer – we hope to have Vince back on the management team at some point.
- c. Carole took over the co-ordinator role in late Spring because Debbie had commitments during the first lock-down. Carole has now reverted to being a network member. Carole was thanked for her work over the summer.
- d. Sam stood down from the role of Chair in September. She was formally thanked for the contribution she has made to the network and its successes.
- e. The management committee have responded to feedback from the membership to focus efforts in the year ahead on providing a space for existing and new gardens in the network to come together, to share skills and experience, to be inspired and learn from each other, and - where needed and capacity allows - work collectively to solve problems that can't be solved by individual gardens.

6. Richard closed out the meeting.

Future meetings will be quarterly. They will continue to be virtual until the pandemic situation is such that we can meet face to face. They will be held at 7pm on the last Wednesday of the month, every third month.

Next meeting – February 24th 2021.