

Olden Community Garden Newsletter, July 2015



NEXT GARDEN WORKDAY

Saturday 18th July, 2015

between 10am - 4 pm

Lunch is provided for everyone

Summer is well and truly upon us and the garden is looking glorious. The long borders are really maturing and the meadow is in full flower. In this very hot weather, which seems to be continuing, the garden becomes parched for water. So any visitors to the garden, please feel free to water any plants that look to be dying of thirst: floral borders, the lawn, pots & containers, vegetable patch, and the greenhouse.

We held our **Spring Garden Party** in late April; the **National Gardeners' Scheme (NGS)** opening was in mid-May; followed by the **Chelsea Fringe Music Garden Party** and the **Open Garden Squares Weekend (OGSW)** both in June. We welcomed many new friends, and overall from the four events we raised a total of £1,836 after deducting expenses. All the funds will go towards some major works in the garden: to restore and improve the stairs and stepways down the slopes, and to make the garden generally safer and more accessible.

The **Chelsea Fringe Music Garden Party** on Sunday 7th June was a wonderful success. The sunny weather favoured us, and people just streamed through the gates - more than 300 adults in all, plus many children. They enjoyed some lovely music from an eclectic mix of around 30 musicians, and had some excellent food. We were almost overwhelmed by the record number of visitors, but our hard working volunteers held it together. Only a few days before the event, Islington Council had refused permission for us to sell alcohol. Next year we will be better prepared. We sold delicious soft drinks, BBQ meats, salads, teas and homemade cakes. Even without a Bar, we raised £976 from the Music Garden Party, after deducting expenses. And we signed up several new Members who discovered the "secret garden". Our thanks to the Highbury Roundhouse for kindly lending us extra tables and chairs.

The Committee sincerely thanks the many people who made the fundraising events happen, and who contributed in various ways to the success of the Spring Garden Party, Chelsea Fringe Music Garden Party, and the openings as part of NGS and OGSW.

MORE GARDENING NEWS

Trestle Table Mystery: Our disappearing trestle table mysteriously reappeared 14 days after it "went missing" from the garden house. If people wish to borrow anything from the garden house, please ask the Management Committee beforehand, and write a note in the Comments Book (on the table beside the garden house door) when something is taken and returned.

Children in the garden: We are really pleased that so many families have joined as Members, and that so many children can enjoy the garden and woodland areas. However, at all times, children should be with an adult. This requirement is part of our health and safety procedures which we are legally bound to follow.

Log circle: Unfortunately, in the past two months, the log circle has been broken up on several occasions, and logs have been rolled down the slopes or moved to other parts of the garden. This has meant that volunteers, some of them elderly, have had to retrieve the heavy logs often from difficult places and put them back. The log circle in the woodlands is there for a reason: to provide a resting place for visitors to sit and enjoy the woodlands, and the circle is part of a learning resource for children at Drayton Park School, and used by the Brownies. Please do not remove the logs from the circle area.

Age UK Garden Club: The next meeting is on Thursday 30th July, from 10 am to 12 noon. All welcome.

Lastly, enjoy the good weather and keep gardening (and watering).