



Olden Community Garden Newsletter September 2015

REMINDER

The next monthly Volunteer Work Day is Saturday 19th September,
from 10-4 pm

Lunch is provided for all volunteers, including children and visitors
Everyone is welcome

WORKDAY Tasks: Herbaceous Borders: planting bulbs for spring (daffodils, anemones, bluebells, snowdrops); and deadheading. Orchard: clearing the areas under the fruit trees, and then watering and mulching with bags of mulch currently stored on the pathway. Vegetable patch: weeding, clearing the raised beds and digging in the manure from the bags that have been stored nearby. Weed, water and mulch the grapevines on the vegetable patch. Greenhouse: autumn seed sowing; clear and improve the long bed between the greenhouse and railway. Raised bed on the lower terrace: weed and dig over, ready for planting. Wildflowers: tidy areas either side of the path to the woodlands. Tool shed: clear away pine needles from behind the shed; and sweep paths.

Autumn can be a great time for gardening. The garden is throwing off its summer colours but still has a lot to show. We hope that the Work Day stays clear and bright.

GENERAL NEWS: We have had much needed pruning done along Whistler Street, and in the garden we have taken out a few dead shrubs and low hanging branches that have impeded other plants from growing. A Tree Survey has been carried out by Islington Council Tree Officer, and a list of tree maintenance works has been approved.

We have grown quite a lot of veg thanks to members involved in the Children's Garden, and we have had a very good fruit yield in the Orchard. A part of the retaining wall between the Children's Garden and Vegetable Garden has collapsed. The area has been cleared of foliage to expose the damaged area, and "Danger Keep Away" signs have been posted. Temporarily, the childrens' garden activities may have to be relocated to the Vegetable Garden area, where additional raised beds could be constructed.

New electric heaters have been installed in the garden house. The annual lettings of the garden house have been reviewed, and Booking Fees have been revised.

A big "thank you" to the 20 volunteers from Good Gym, and their leader Simon, for all the work they accomplished in the garden last Monday evening. This included: forking the lawn, seeding etc; bagging manure; and shifting many bags of mulch/manure ready for the Work Day. We also thank all the regular volunteers who have been turning up weekly on Tuesdays to work with our part-time gardeners, especially Tony.

On Wednesday 16th September work will begin to rebuild the main steps leading down to the greenhouse and lower planting levels. The steps have become dangerous and almost inaccessible. They will be rebuilt with new handrails, and the improvements are expected to be completed before end-September.

Carrick James (The Birdman of Olden Garden) has been seriously ill for some time, but is slowly recovering. We miss him in the garden, and send our love and best wishes to him and his family.

REMINDER: AgeUK Get Together and Gardening Session: Thursday, 17th September. The session starts at 10 am with coffee and biscuits, and will end around 12 noon.

FINALLY: Please remember the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 27th September, at 3 pm. All current Members should have received the relevant information and papers for the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM. Please join us afterwards for a drink and bite to eat. If you wish to join (or rejoin), email: theoldengarden@yahoo.co.uk
PS We have won a prize in the Islington in Bloom competition. There will be more information at the A.G.M.

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