

ST MARY'S SECRET GARDEN NEWSLETTER

Registered charity 1152027

Newsletter Date April 2016

Blooming Marvellous! Generous help keeps us growing

Hello Everybody!

Spring is already here and we have been and will be busy in the garden thanks to excellent support.

We were awarded £8,000 from the first ever **Tesco 'Bags of Help' Scheme** (now you know where some of your 5p's went when you bought a carrier bag!). This will enable us to renovate areas of the garden including our raised beds in the vegetable area, improve our plant sales areas and provide an outdoor learning space - so keep an eye on the garden for improvements. We hope you like.

Other generous donations were received from **Openfundraising**, **De Beauvoir Gardening**

Club, and the **Simon & Philip Cohen Trust**.

We have achieved some grants from **Hackney Council's** small grants and **D'Oyly Carte charitable Trust** for some volunteering opportunities including the weekends —watch for more information.

We are also helping more people feel better and less lonely through horticultural therapy sessions on Mondays. This is through the innovative service **One Hackney & City**.

We said farewell to our lovely therapist for many years Antoinette Stammers. We welcomed Ruth Yeo to our therapy staff team and she is settling in brilliantly!



Some of our Wednesday gardeners with a big bouncy cheque!

Growing News

It's time to start planting! Our hand raised and organically grown plants are ready for buying.

We currently have a vast range of tomato plants to suit all taste buds and growing sites. Toma-

atoes are dead easy to grow. If you can only have a window box or hanging basket - look out for our 'Red Robin' variety. Plants start at 50p!!

Bedding and ornamental plants now ready including lobelia,

geraniums, petunias, Cosmos, Ipomea 'Blackie' to name just a few.

We are creating some lovely hanging baskets this year -although we will be decorating the garden with them, they will be for sale and are available for £10-12

Special points of interest:

- **Open Squares and Gardens Weekend**
18th & 19th of June. Look out for our lovely tea & cakes, our poet in residence and the launch of **Silent Space**
- **Annual General Meeting** is currently set for Wednesday 13th July at 7pm but subject to confirmation

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30 years of growing in Hackney

A gentleman popped into the garden the other week and as we got chatting he said how much the place had changed. He happened to be a local councillor when this little patch of ground came into being.

He helped petition the council to ensure this patch of land remained a garden for the benefit of the local community rather than being built on.

We'd like to thank him and all the people who have used the garden and its services over the last 30 years.

So this AGM will be a special one and we can have an official birthday!

Lets hope for 30 years more.

We tweet!
@stmarysgarden

Please give us your feedback!

It is important for us to know how we have done and what we can do better. We also need to know what you would like to see happening in the garden.

We will be using different methods this year to try and gain your feedback.

Please help us and keep an eye open in the garden for notice boards, visitors books and secret notes to post into nest boxes.

For example:

- Would you like weekend opening?
- Would you like us to run a gardening service?
- Would you like us to run gardening or other kind of workshops?

From your seeds of feedback we can grow great projects for all to join in.

Thanks for all your help.

