



St Mary's Secret Garden Update

Thanks to everyone who came along to our Open Garden Squares Weekend Open Day last month. We had more than 260 visitors and raised over £1000 through plant, produce and honey sales, and our pop up cafe! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, bought plants or chomped cake on the day. Next year's event will be on Saturday 6 June if you'd like to get it in your diary!

Here's a selection of a few other things that have been or are happening in the garden at the moment.

We recently had our Green Flag Award judging and are eagerly awaiting our results announcement on 16th July. This week we are busy preparing for our London in Bloom judging, so please cross your fingers for us!

We had a great time providing flower arrangements to our friends at Shared Lives a couple of weeks ago for their celebration event at Hackney Town Hall. Find out more about them by clicking this link <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/shared-lives>

We're also sending a big thank you to the corporate volunteering teams from AXA XL, M3C, HSBC and Lewis Silkin who have been helping us paint, tidy, build and maintain in the garden over the last couple of months. Lovely work from everyone, especially in the lead up to our judging and open days.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 July.

Arrive at **6.30pm** for refreshments and nibbles, the meeting will start promptly at **7pm**.

We have plenty to share about the past year and all our upcoming activities and we will have guest speakers including **Mayor of Hackney Philip Glanville**.

Please let us know if you will be attending so we can make sure we provide enough snacks!

Garden Social Tea Party

Our Garden Social group is hosting a Tea Party on Tuesday 23 July 12 - 4pm with tea, cake, games and live bands performing and leading singalongs. Anyone from Hackney aged 50+ with learning disabilities is invited to attend.

The Garden Social is also for Hackney residents aged 50+ with learning disabilities. Weekly sessions run on Tuesdays from 10am until 2pm.

Please share with anyone you think might be interested in attending.





ST MARY'S SECRET GARDEN

GARDEN SOCIAL TEA PARTY

**TUESDAY 23 JULY
12 - 4pm**

**Tea, cake,
games
and live music!**

**RSVP:
50 Pearson Street
E2 8EL
020 7739 2965
info@stmarysgarden
.org.uk**

The Garden Social is a
weekly gardening and social
club for Hackney residents
age 50+ with learning
disabilities




Greening for Wellbeing

We are looking for people with mental ill health to join our six month garden maintenance volunteering placements.

We run weekly sessions at the garden and our local community planting initiatives on Wednesdays 1pm - 4pm.

GREENING FOR WELLBEING



**SIX MONTH VOLUNTEERING PLACEMENTS IN GARDEN
MAINTENANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILL HEALTH**

Wednesdays 1 - 4pm

For people with:

- Common mental health problems, looking to improve wellbeing
- Some experience, or strong interest in gardening
- Time management skills
- Ability to work with direction and minimum supervision
- Ability to travel to a variety of spaces in Hackney
- Ability to carry out physical activity for extended periods

We will provide:

- Training and experience in gardening, food growing and garden maintenance
- Mental and physical benefits of being and working in a garden
- Protective clothing including boots and gloves
- Letter of reference for further volunteering or employment

**To apply please contact Siobhan on siobhan@stmarysgarden.org.uk
02077392965 or visit the garden for an application form**

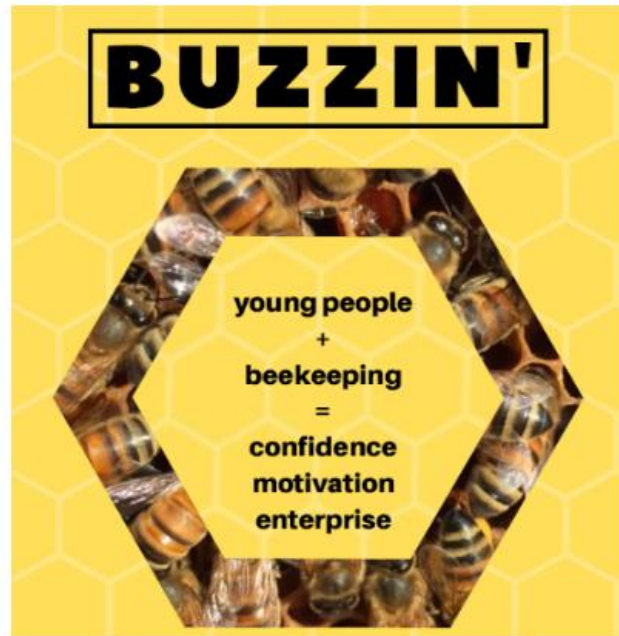


www.stmaryssecretgarden.org.uk

St Mary's Secret Garden, 50 Pearson Street E2 8EL

Registered Charity 1152027 | Company limited by guarantee 0587812

Buzzin'



We still have spaces available on Buzzin', our beekeeping project for young people. We're looking for people aged between 10 and 20 who would like to learn about beekeeping, honey and wax extraction, bee crafts, and gardening for bees and other pollinators.

Any young people who fit into the following GLA target groups are invited to join:

- Looked after children (or at risk of being)
- Young carers
- Young people in the youth justice system (or at risk of being)
- Young homeless people (or at risk of being)
- Refugee and asylum seeking young people
- Young people with learning disabilities
- NEETs (not in employment, education or training)
- Vulnerable young people (or at risk of being)

Awards for All: Come Gardening

Last week we were awarded continuation funding by National Lottery Awards for All for our weekly supported volunteering sessions on Mondays 1 - 4pm.

We are now able to open these sessions out to people of any age, so please pass on the news!

Save the Date: Growing Culture Celebration



We are throwing a feasting party to celebrate the diversity and history of food and food growing culture in London.

We hope to collect stories and recipes on the day so join us on **Wednesday 14 August** to share food and food growing stories and discuss the heritage of St Mary's Secret Garden and the local area. All welcome!