**Newsletter December 2017**



**What has St Mary’s Secret Garden been up to?**



**Gardening for the Community**

Many of our groups have been busy since the spring in and around our local **St Mary’s Estate.** We have been working together, with monies secured from the **Hackney Council’s** tenants levy, to make new feature beds and plant bulbs around the estate. Over 9,000 bulbs were planted in one day – thanks to the help of **Bank of America**. Keep an eye on the grounds in Spring.

**Harvest Festivals Galore!**

**0De Beauvoir Show** - our gardeners entered many categories in this fantastic show –walking away with the award for most points by a club! **City Harvest Festival at Capel Manor College, Enfield** is where the London gardens and city farms come together to show our work. Our display stand won the coveted MPGA (Metropolitan Gardens Association) award – with prize money of £150. Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the event so will be huge. A pleasure as always to provide a basket of our gardens produce to **St Chad’s Church**, Father James,the congregation and the night shelter for the homeless. We still have produce available at the garden – please pop in when the gates are open.

**Shed Therapy**

Every garden needs a shed and our new one is coming in useful when working with the **Tavistock and Portman NHS foundation trust**. Our shed is providing a safe and unusual environment to host talking therapy sessions followed by some horticultural therapy. This excellent programme could not have begun without the support of **you** via **Tesco’ Bags of Help’** scheme and the **Hospital Saturday Fund.** We hope the shed sessions will continue.

**Fundraising**

A HUGE thanks to **Asda** at **Leyton** and all their customers – we received a £200 cheque! Another huge thanks to workers of **Monsoon** who through their fundraising activities have raised a princely sum for the garden.

**Coming up!**

Christmas is coming and I am sure the city farm geese are getting fat! We have fayres and activities for you. For early Xmas shoppers on **Saturday 25th November** we will be at **De Beauvoir Xmas fayre** at the crypt, St Peter’s Church in De Beauvoir. On **Sunday 3rd December** we will be at **The Handmade Winter Fair** at **Rosemary Works School N1** 12-3pm (with Santa!) Look out for the evening of **14th December** at the garden – we are having our late night shopping & wreath making event TBC.

**0How you can support us**

At this time it is increasingly difficult for small charities to keep going we appreciate any help that you can give us. There are many ways including:

1. Become a member of the local **Co-op** and support us through their community scheme and help us share the **Secret of Growing**
2. Donate to us through **Local Giving** <https://localgiving.org/charity/secretgarden/>
3. Donate to us when shopping on line with ‘**Give as you live’** <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>
4. Pop into the garden and put a few coins in our donation box (or buy some of our plants / chutneys for Xmas)
5. Pop into **SuperLyan** bar in **Hoxton** – have a cocktail and donate a £1
6. Paul Foinette of Hackney Council is running the London Marathon to raise money for us – more info coming.

**Gardening Places Available**

We have volunteering sessions on a Monday for people over 60 thanks to funding from Team London.

We also have some vacancies on a Wednesday afternoon in our supported volunteering sessions.

Please see our website and contact us for further information.



Capel Manor Harvest Festival



Honey Extraction

Pyracanthus

