



Anna Bojer,
Aden Terrace

HACKNEY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY
www.hackneyallotments.org.uk

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024

“A life is a moment in season. A
life is one snowfall. A life is one
autumn day.”

ALAN BERNSTEIN

HAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR

Julia Rockcliffe

VICE-CHAIR

currently vacant

SECRETARY

Jana Hasegawa -
hackneyallotments@gmail.com

TREASURER

Hugh Naylor

SITE REPRESENTATIVES

ADEN TERRACE

Susan & Richard Kay

CHURCH WALK

Kate Nash

LEASIDE ROAD

Guy Dehn, Ian Dick

OVERBURY STREET

Kerry Morgan

QUEENSBRIDGE ROAD

Philip Turner

SPRING HILL

Laurence Sgroi, Heather Finlay

SPRING LANE

Elsa Hamaz

SPRINGDALE ROAD

Annie Wilson

ST KILDA'S ROAD

Marie McShea

*Beautiful bounty
Annie Wilson,
Springdale*



ONE YEAR LATER

When I took over Nancy's role last year, I was conscious that the bar was set high.

It has been an eventful year for sure. A year when we reopened the waiting list and has incredible 720 applications.

It was a year when we lost two long-serving members who will be greatly missed. There is a hint of sadness every time I pass Andreas's old flat and think of the cold winter day when me and Nancy went to check on him only to hear later he had been hospitalised.

We also said good-bye to Penny Miller, former Chair who had lost her battle early summer this year.

Last year was also a year of fresh air with 12 new plot holders. It was an honour to visit all sites during our annual inspections and see how much effort everyone had put in their plots.

But if anything stood out amongst lovely yellow courgettes and goji berry bushes, it was the hard work of all the site reps who don't always have an easy job.

And I would like to thank them for it.

My thanks go to Sue and Richard from Aden Terrace for keeping on top of repairs and pollarding.

I thank Heather from Spring Hill for bringing the SH community

together.

I express my gratitude to Elsa from Spring Lane for her calm and rational approach to problems.

I would also like to thanks Guy and Ian from Leaside for being proactive and resourceful.

A big shout goes to Kerry from Overbury who was brave enough to deal with a dead fox and constant calls for bins to be emptied.

My gratitude goes to Annie for working behind the scenes on every single newsletter and to Kate and Marie for being the calm force behind our two smallest sites.

Jana Hasegawa

VICE CHAIR NEEDED!

Do you have a passion for veg and mad admin

skills? Would you like to help a friendly bunch of volunteers to run

HAS?

We are calling for nominations for vice-chairperson.

The role can be shaped to your skills and time commitment but here are some of our regular

tasks you can pick from:

- committee meetings
- liaising with sites about repairs
- payment reconciliation
- taking minutes
- maintaining

- records
- fundraising
- communications with Hackney council
- annual site visits



THE LEOPARD SLUG- FRIEND OR FOE?

by Annie Wilson

This year the wet weather has been perfect slug and snail weather and I'm sure all of us have suffered the effects of their damage to our crops. However one common slug can be described as the gardeners friend.

The Leopard Slug is a common British species that doesn't damage healthy, living plants, but does eat other slugs, including those that can damage garden plants and vegetables. The leopard slug's Latin name, *Limax maximus*, literally means "biggest slug". The adult measures 10–20 cm (4–8 in) in length and is generally a light greyish or grey-brown with darker spots and blotches, although the colouration and exact

patterning of the body of this slug species is quite variable. Leopard slugs are omnivores. By eating dead and rotting plants, as well as fungi, they recycle nutrients and fertilise the soil. They have also been known to eat food left out for pets. They are known to pursue other slugs to eat them after a high speed chase of 15 centimetres (6 in) per minute!

The leopard slugs, like all of their kind, need to keep their bodies damp in order to breathe, so are usually found in dark, moist places, particularly amongst rotting logs. The homing instinct is strongly developed in this species, which, after its nocturnal rambles or foraging expeditions, usually returns to the particular

crevice or chink in which it has established itself. Leopard slugs have a very unusual and distinctive mating method, where the pair of slugs use a thick thread of mucus to hang suspended in the air from a tree branch or other structure.

Although native to Britain and Europe, this species has been accidentally introduced to many other parts of the world.

So however repellent it looks try to appreciate the benefits of having a leopard slug on your plot .



SNIPPETS FROM THE AGM

We held our AGM on October 7th and would like to thank all for coming.

We recapped on the year, announced best plot awards and shared composting tips.

Hugh, our treasurer, then gave a brief outline of our financial position and expenditures.

We also had a fruitful discussion on hot composting.

Oh, and we do have refreshments so please do join us next year as the more the merrier!

PERPETUAL PERENNIALS

by Jana Hasegawa

Low maintenance plants that come year on year? Perennials tick all the boxes. Whether it's rhubarb, perpetual spinach, asparagus or sorrel, they continue to sprout back to life.



RHUBARB

by Annie Wilson & Jana Hasegawa

Did you know that the most quintessentially British perennial was imported from China and was used as a strictly medicinal plant until late 18th century? Whilst there is no scientific evidence that rhubarb is truly the panacea it was claimed to be, it is an incredibly easy perennial to grow and who doesn't like a nice, tangy crumble?

It is a vegetable and belongs to the buckwheat family. It prefers colder climates and can even be found in the Siberian tundra. It shouldn't be harvested the first year you are growing it and can live for up to 60 years, 20 years being the average.



RHUBARB AND LEMON JAM

Ingredients

- 750 gm rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 2 cm lengths
- 625 gm granulated sugar
- 2 lemons
- 1 and a half finely chopped root ginger

Combine all the ingredients in a non-metallic bowl. Cover and set aside for 3 hours. Put the mixture into a large saucepan, bring to the boil then simmer for 7-10 minutes or until it's reached setting point. Take off heat then put jam into warm sterilized jars. Makes 3 jars.

RHUBARB AND CHIA PUDDING



Ingredients

COMPOTE

- 3 stalks rhubarb roughly chopped
- 1 small beet peeled and quartered
- Juice of a lemon
- 1-2 tablespoons maple syrup

CHIA PUDDING

- 250 ml light coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup
- Zest of a lemon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 tablespoons chia seeds

Place the rhubarb, beet, lemon juice, and syrup into a saucepan and simmer over medium heat for 10 minutes. Remove beetroot and let chill. Combine coconut milk, lemon zest, syrup and chia seeds and refrigerate until thick, top with compote and enjoy!.

STORIES FROM THE CORN FIELDS

by Tom Lewis, Springdale



My name is Tom Lewis and recently my partner Simon and I have taken on an allotment on the Springdale Road site. After waiting about six years we are delighted to now have an allotment plot on what must be the smallest site in Hackney with only four plots. It's such a unique space, a hidden garden tucked away between a row of terraced houses and only a short walk from where we live. We have already met the three other plot holders who have been so welcoming and helpful.

I am an artist who works with materials found in nature and I am very much inspired by urban wildlife, folklore traditions, the pagan calendar and the changing seasons. In recent years I have been exploring the endangered heritage

craft of wheat weaving, straw art and corn doll making, the materials are soaked and then woven or shaped into designs. It was believed that creating a dolly or token from the harvest would keep the spirit of the grain alive throughout the winter months until sowing began again in Spring. I love this cycle of sowing, growing, harvesting, making something to keep and renewal. Using my hands and working on my art offers me a chance to escape from any stress and worries while focusing on what I'm creating, very similar to what happens when digging or spending time on the new allotment which of course has the added bonus of being outdoors. I'm looking forward to growing lots of fruit and vegetables but I'd also like to use the space

to experiment with growing a few rows of grains like the wheat, rye and green oats I use in my art. I use a lot of wheat which I have delivered from a farm in Staffordshire who specifically grow long stems for weaving but I think it would be fascinating to watch it grow and harvest a small amount on my own plot. It would also be wonderful to grow some corn so that I might be able to use the husks to make dolls, perhaps a variety with a pinkish tinge through the husk. I also have a great interest in growing ornamental gourds, unusual squash and pumpkins. Simon and I are both looking forward to making our allotment a productive, peaceful and beautiful space to be.



IS IT SAFE TO GROW IN TYRES?

sourced from growlikegrandad

Many allotment sites have already banned the use of tyres but you can see the odd few being used at allotments. Typically they're weighing down thick black plastic sheeting over winter to stop weeds growing and to warm the soil earlier in the spring. Occasionally tyres are being used as planters to grow vegetables in. You'll find multiple gardening sources recommending them for potato growing because you can keep earthing up the plant stems by adding more tyres and soil on top. I've always thought tyres an odd choice for a root crop like potatoes, I wouldn't particularly want to eat a potato grown inside an old tyre. Why not? Mainly because the ingredients of tyres contain known carcinogenic chemicals such as Styrene, 1,3-Butadiene, Benzene, Phthalates, and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

IN LOVING MEMORY



PENNY MILLER

ADEN TERRACE

by Vikki Yapp

This year was a sad goodbye to my friend and allotment mentor Penny Miller. She was a member of the society for over 35 years and for 12 of these she served as chair of the committee and her knowledge and contribution was extensive and much valued. Penny was a real character and my plot neighbour for over 20 years. As an allotment newbie she taught me a lot with enthusiasm and endless patience. The allotment was a great love of hers and she could often be seen string and sticks in hand building an elaborate bean structure or constructing a unique self irrigating seed bed! She really believed in making use of things others

would throw away. With a smile I remember the time we hired a skip to clean up the site and as people were piling stuff in Penny could be seen taking things out. We often arranged to meet at the allotment but Penny was often running late as she would stop for a chat with everyone she met en route. She really will be missed but always remembered by many people including her long time partner Val, her two children and grandson Emlyn. The allotment won't be the same without her but a comfort to know how much joy and peace she found there.
RIP Penny



ANDREAS KORIANOU

SPRING HILL

by Heather Finlay

On Sunday 13th October we had two gatherings at Spring hill allotments to remember those who we had lost in the last few years. The first was for Sylvia Cummins. Current allotment plot holders and members of Sylvia's family met to put a plaque in place. Sylvia was remembered as being a good friend, a talented fruit grower and an efficient site rep. Thanks are due to Sylvia's family who donated the money to refurbished our communal benches and table. The second gathering was for Andreas Korianou. We put another plaque in place and Andreas was remembered as someone who found solace in his allotment. He was also an active member of the local

Cypriot community. It was a good afternoon with lots of cake and fond memories. We raised a glass to both of them.



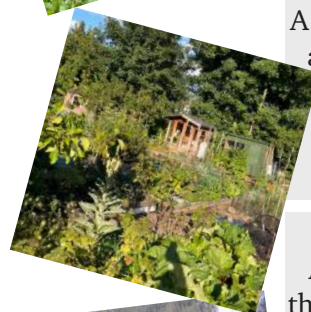
SITES TO BEHOLD

by Jana Hasegawa



ST KILDA'S ROAD

Hidden away behind a row of houses on St Kilda's road, with its four plots, St Kilda's is a little green oasis of neat beds overflowing with luscious produce.



LEASIDE ROAD

A sunny site with 17 plots efficiently managed by Guy and Ian. As you make your way up the hill, Leaside Leaside offers a variety of produce ranging from artichokes to tomatoes.



SPRING LANE

A sprawling site of 18 plots showcasing the best courgettes. Just off the canoe centre, Leaside is committed to being 100% organic.



SPRING HILL

True to its name, our biggest site with 44 plots stretches up the spring hill and is a wonderful mixture of both vegetable and flower patches.

QUEENSBIDGE ROAD

With just 2.5 plots, Queensbridge is our tiniest site, yet they take the price for squeezing in water butts for rain water collection and composting bins.



ADEN TERRACE

Our biggest site in N16 with its 26 plots, Aden Terrace is a green paradise with bountiful beans and cute, little sheds sandwiched between estates.



SPRINGDALE ROAD

Hidden in between town houses, this organic site of 4 plots produces splendid cucumbers and raspberries.



CHURCH WALK

The smallest site in N16 is the home to 4 prolific plots with bounty of brassicas, salads and beans.



OVERBURY STREET

Whilst Overbury is our smallest site in E8, what it lacks in size it certainly makes up in produce; anything from goji berries to asparagus, Overbury has it all.



2024 AWARDS

BEST NEWCOMERS

Spring Hill
Sehribani, Kazim Guzel
Leaside
Siobhan MacMahon
Aden Terrace
Maggie Ross
Church Walk
Lesley Slater
Glyn Williams

BEST PLOTS

St Kildas
Nick Carter
Spring Lane
Helen Bishop/Kate
Elander
Leaside
Patsy Hans
Aden Terrace
Nancy Korman
Vicky Yapp
Queensbridge Road
Phillippa Lloyd
Spring Hill
Annie Moreton

WHAT TO SOW IN OCTOBER

Direct sow outdoors

- **broad beans** - can be sown directly in the ground. Their roots will add soil structure and prevent leaching of nutrients over winter.
- **hardier varieties of spring onions**
- **garlic** as cloves need a lengthy chilling period to split and create heads. Try to avoid supermarket cloves to make sure your garlic are disease-free.
- **mizuna**, or frost-tolerant **komatsuma** are a great source of vitamin A, C and K
- try some **horseradish** — it'll literally grow on its own. It is also a great pest repellent so planting it near potatoes will protect your crop.
- one-year-old dormant **asparagus**
- **Pak choi** under cloches
- **overwintering onions** and **shallots** directly outside.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE GROWING SEASON

- **cultivate and aerate** the soil
- **top** with compost
- **plan** your crops and purchase/ swap seeds
- get your **seedling compost** and **pots**
- chillies and aubergine need the whole growing season so sow your seedlings indoor as soon as possible.
- first lot of **potatoes** can go in late February / early March.
- be guided by the weather and if conditions are suitable, you can sow **beetroot, carrots, peas** and **swiss chard** late March.
- protect early outdoor sowings with fleece and polythene.
- **feed** your winter crops

JOINT MEMBERSHIP DECLARATIONS

Are there any members who have worked their plot with a partner from the same household since they became members? If the answer is yes, please contact the HAS so that we can update our database.



FROM OUR SITES

After a slow start to the growing season, the crop turned out better than feared.

The annual inspections were an absolute treat with squashes, courgettes and some spectacular salads.



White wonders

Anna Brojer, Aden Terrace

Good Crop

Anna Brojer, Aden Terrace



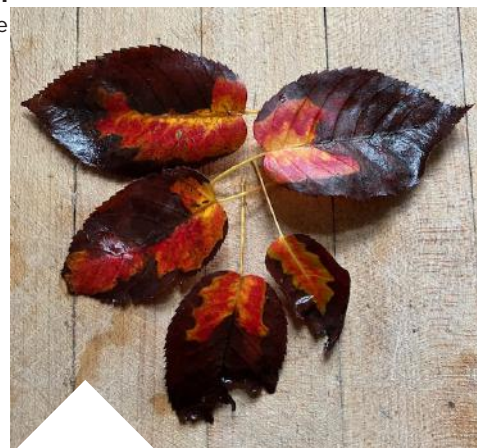
Autumn sketch

Susan Kay, Aden terrace



Web of wonder

Sarah Kissack, Aden Terrace

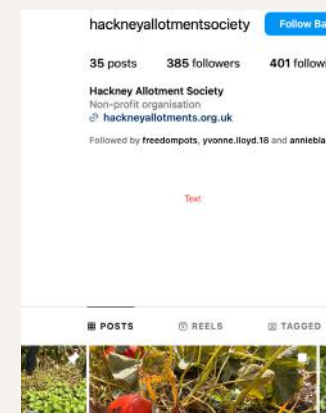


Autumn is here

Sue Kay, Aden Terrace

IN SEARCH OF PHOTOS

Tired of all these
Aden Terrace
photographs?
Share yours
with us via email
or social media.





From site inspections
captured by Annie Wilson,



Bee at work
Sarah Kissack, Aden Terrace

FROM OUR SITES

Springdale Gothic
Tom Lewis ,Springdale Road



From site inspections
captured by Julia Rockliffe



Veggie Richard
Sue Kay, Aden Terrace

From site inspections
captured by Julia Rockliffe



Dahlia delight
Anna Brojer, Aden Terrace