

AGM
Sunday 24th June 2018
Burgess Park Food Project

Minutes

Present; Anne Buffardi, Sue Amos, Flora Gordon, Tue Sando, Jamie Curtis Hayward, Jason Bitmead, Susan Crisp, Jenny Morgan, Denise Hawrysis, Sam Hills, Jo Berry, Patricia Parkinson, Soraya Derdieri, Francesca Nicol, Bronwyn Louw, Barbora Adlerova, Caz Burley, Olive Boucher.
Apologies; Steve Amos,

Elected

Chair Tue Sando

Secretary Sue Amos

Treasurer Patricia Parkinson

Beekeeping group Steve Amos

Chicken group Jason Bitmead

Urban Growth Flora Gordon

Food Group Francesca Nicol

Reports for 2017-2018

Bee keeping

The Apiary been established for 4 years and we now have 10 colonies of bees. We first established bee colonies in top bar hives as these were felt to be more suitable for natural beekeeping - where the bees aren't farmed as much and are left to get on with it. We felt as a group that these hives were difficult to manage and we did want to get a bit more honey without being too invasive to the bees so we have established other colonies [from swarms caught in the garden] in national hives which are the traditional hives used by modern beekeepers. These hives allow us to demonstrate more easily to visitors and new members how the colonies work and also allow us to manage any surplus honey. We also have one colony in a Warre hive which are doing well.

All the colonies are healthy. This year we split 2 colonies in May to prevent them swarming which was successful. We have caught a swarm and rehived them.

In the last year we have built a bee observation shelter and storage area. This was grant funded and all built by members of the bee group and garden volunteers. This offers a good and safe view of the bees without having to get too close.

We are a small group of beekeepers and would like more people to get involved. We meet on Sundays at 2pm from April to September to check the bees and manage the apiary and then the odd day during the winter to look after the site. It is free to join and we have bee suits and gloves for adults and children. We welcome visitors to the garden to come and take part and see the insides of a busy beehive. Last year we weren't able to take any honey but we are hoping the bees will let us have some this year.

Herb Tuesdays

Herb Tuesdays finished at the end of May after a successful three and a half years. The group was successful in building new relationships with local health teams from SlaM, local health charities as well as referrals from GP's. A basis of regular volunteers supported the project and we spent most of our time maintaining the wider garden.

We have welcomed back Maintaining Health Partners who are currently offering free homeopathy every month at the garden.

A big learning curve for everyone involved, the project enabled us to support many people from the local community who might not have made it to the garden without the support offered.

A funding bid is in the pipeline as we hope to build on the project as there is clearly a need for a local social health and wellbeing gardening programme that isn't over medicalised, and is as much about supporting peoples community networks as a part of good health as well as their physical and mental wellbeing.

Grown in Peckham

The growing group under the leadership of Ben Hanslip have taken on a team of 5 trainee growers in an effort to increase productivity and have more and better growing skills at hand to support the drop in volunteers who come in the afternoon.

Food Coordinator

In April we secured funding from the Peckham Settlement to pay for a Food Coordinator role to further develop our Grown in Peckham Thursday sessions. Bronwyn Louw is carrying out the role, building on the work she has at the garden so far.

In addition to supporting our new growing trainees and helping to coordinate Thursday sessions, the food coordinator is:

- managing a weekly supply of veg bags from the garden to Peckham Foodbank, in partnership with local organisation Pecan
- working to establish mutually beneficial relationships with local businesses eg. selling vegetables to Level Six Cafe in Peckham Levels to raise some income for the garden, and finding local people to deliver a free cooking workshop at the garden
- setting up a market stall at the garden, to sell produce and plants to the local community on a pay-what-you-can basis

This is a pilot project to see how food growing at the garden can further benefit the wider local community.

Glengall Little Gardeners

A very popular group that has grown in size, especially as the weather has got warmer. There is lots to do including foraging for fruit, helping to keep the garden spick and span (we now have a fleet of mini wheelbarrows).

Coming soon!

Chicken group

The coop is being cleared out and the first chickens should be arriving soon!

Permaculture

We hope to get more permaculture activities and sessions embedded in our regular programme.

July 21st Fundraiser

A night of music, good food, campfire and congeniality is planned to help us raise funds for a proper bread oven.

Incorporation

Thanks to pro bono advice from Simmons and Simmons, we are researching the best charity model to take us forward to bigger and better things.

Accounts completed with pro bono support from Steffi Currey and Tannyth Bush.