

# **This is a copy of the BWGA Members News Update sent out on Sunday 6th June 2010**

BWGA Members

BWGA News Update June 2010

Here is an update about the Bohemia Walled Garden Association for June 2010

In order to ensure reliable distribution of information the BWGA would like to request that everyone who is interested or involved with the development of the Walled Garden takes the trouble to register at least a name and email address via the Member Registration page on the [bohemiawga.weebly.com](http://bohemiawga.weebly.com) website. In the past you may have recorded your information by an email but now we request you provide an update of information via the website. Membership of the BWGA remains free but this will help ensure an accurate record of members now that website registration is in place.

As a part of developing the number of plots where plants and crops are grown there is now a Plot Registration page where we would like any member who feels they have something to contribute by having a plot in the garden can register their interest in taking on a small area of the garden. Will all members who are using or wish to use an area of the garden register their details on the website.

Arrangements are in place for people who do not have access to the Internet.

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With the arrival of Spring, the members of the "Bohemia Walled Garden Association" have become much busier. Although we are still contending with the nettles, brambles, saplings and ivy, we have also started a regime of using the cleared land. Our first effort was to establish a vegetable plot. We look forward to being able to harvest potatoes, broad beans, peas, onions, radishes, lettuce, runner beans, french beans, courgettes, spinach and purple sprouting broccoli. No doubt, more vegetable seedlings will arrive and this list will be expanded.

There is now a second vegetable plot, with plants grown mainly from seed. This is the "away" garden that is tended by St. Mary's Primary School children; they also have a garden in their own grounds, in Magdalen Road. Hopefully this is just the first of nearby schools and social groups to use our unique site, which provides a safe & secure environment within the walls of the garden.

The site itself has been beautified by non-living things as well. Vanessa Saunders has presented us with a well-dressed "Mr. Scarecrow", who is full of character and oversees our work. He has no name at the moment, but this will probably be corrected on our Open Day, when everyone will have a chance to offer a name, in exchange for 10p. The lucky person whose name is chosen will win £1. We have scheduled our Open Day this year for Saturday, 31st July 2p.m. until 5pm, which is the same day as the Bohemia Village Fayre. We are still in the planning stages for this event, but one

important thing has been arranged which is a visit by our new mayor, Mayor Kim Forward.

On 26th May, we met 3 HBC Councillors to show them Summerfields Wood and the walled garden. Dominic Sabetien, Kim Forward and Trevor Webb were able to see for themselves the special appeal and unique features of the wood. They were also able to see that there are real problems that need attention and would benefit from more active HBC involvement. The walled garden was the final destination of the tour, after discussion about the top pond and its value as a source of water for our project. All remembered the garden as it was in its neglected state and marvelled at what we have been able to achieve. We were also able to show the Councillors the recent repair to a hole in the south wall; Amy Terry (Estates) had visited the garden, seen that this was a potential hazard and asked Booker & Best to fill in this area re-using bricks already on site.

The Councillors' visit was the first step in our efforts to improve conditions in the wood. Footpaths, ponds and tree maintenance are all issues that require HBC to meet their responsibility. Although we have been offered help from BTCV with the pond work, we still require the Council to accept their responsibility for this community site and provide materials. With the good-will of both voluntary groups and HBC, improvements can be made. Bob Hart (BWGA) and Trevor Webb (HBC) have worked together to organise another site visit with relevant officers who will be able to see the actual areas that require their action.

In addition to the physical improvements within the walled garden, we can also report an improvement in finances. We received a generous donation of £200 from the "Grey Owl Society", in respect of our work within a Local Nature Reserve and the preservation of an open green space. Our Fund raising Event on 8th May contributed about £300, thanks to the efforts of members willing to contribute cakes, bric-a-brac, plants and books and helping to sell them on the day. We also continue to attract donations from the public who wish to support our cause; many thanks to "Bohemia Village Voice" who bring our name to the fore with every issue of their excellent magazine. About £30 has also been added to our account from the sale of our vegetarian cookbook, edited & compiled by Delia Cattell, from recipes submitted by Brian Wallace.

Major funding continues to be a problem, and we continue to apply for grants. We are currently awaiting the outcome of applications to HVA/PCT and Meridian's "Peoples' Millions" and will soon be contacting the ESCC for a grant for a composting demonstration site that is being developed. Work is also on-going with obtaining quotes from builders; this has been more difficult than anticipated. We are still looking for a builder that will provide a reliable quotation for rebuilding walls. Our Lease with HBC is still in the draft stage, but both HBC and BWGA are co-operating to work toward a satisfactory result. All these issues require time and perseverance, so it will have to wait till a future "news up-date" to report more substantial progress.

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Email: [Bohemiawga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Bohemiawga@yahoo.co.uk)

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