



### *Framfield's Award Winning Wildlife Pond*

It's been a busy summer on the allotment front. There have been a wide range of very successful events which are reported in more detail below in the "Around the Associations" section. The 40% increase in Council rents for 2012-13, considerably smaller than that first proposed by the Council but still a major blow for many plot holders, has come into force. Despite the widespread publicity, it is inevitable that this has come as a shock and cause for concern to many tenants. There has also been progress, as detailed below, on clarifying the Council's policy regarding the future management of Ealing Council allotments

### **Self Management**

As reported in the last EAP newsletter, an "Allotment Management Changes Forum" has been set up (initially by the site-based local allotment associations and since expanded to include all Ealing Council Site Managers) to look into reports that Council Officers were being asked to come up with a policy document on allotment management to be considered by Council Cabinet this October.

Following a meeting of the Forum in June, Hilary Jayne and Patrick Williams (the Forum co-ordinators), met with Cllr. Bassam Mahfouz (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Leisure) and Chris Bunting (Assistant Director for Leisure Services) to clarify the situation regarding Ealing Council's plans for the future management of its allotments. This meeting was extremely amicable and constructive.

Cllr. Mahfouz explained that the Leisure Services team was seeking Cabinet approval to investigate the feasibility of changing the management of the Council's allotments to include the possibility of introducing a self-management system. The motivation, he stressed, was to try and introduce a more effective and efficient management system that provided allotment tenants with a greater say in how their sites were run. Cllr. Mahfouz



emphasised that there was no financial motivation driving this proposal, that any decisions would be made in close consultation with the allotment community, and that the present system could be retained if no better alternative emerged.

It was agreed that consultation would be primarily via the Forum as well as other existing channels and Chris Bunting volunteered to organise a workshop for Forum members on different models of allotment self-management that might suit the Ealing situation. It was acknowledged, both by Cllr. Mahfouz and Chris Bunting, that the introduction of any workable scheme may require phasing over several years and would necessarily involve a considerable input both in training and mentoring on the part of the Council.

The Forum is currently assessing the situation and will almost certainly take up Chris Bunting's offer. Assuming that this is the case, a full report will be provided in the next EAP newsletter.

## *Around the Associations*

### *Framfield*

*As reported in the last newsletter, Framfield was the national winner of the Community Garden section of the Big Wildlife Garden Competition and there is a photo of their prize-winning entry at the head of this newsletter. Very impressive! Dennis Wilkinson the Local Association chairman, the inspiration behind the project, was presented with the trophy at this year's Hampton Court RHS Garden Show.*

*Framfield hosted a visit from the Mikron theatre company on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July. The company is touring the country with their play "Losing the Plot". As the name suggests, it is set on an allotment and the site was one of the two they visited in London. They are shown in full flow on the bottom left. The following day, Framfield held its traditional Summer Social. This fully lived up to its name – plenty to eat, plenty to drink and excellent company! In addition to plot holders from Framfield, there were guests from Oldfield, Horsenden and Brentham. Cllr Ray Wall presented awards for the best plots and certificates for volunteers (below right) while local MP Steve Pound presided over the raffle draw.*



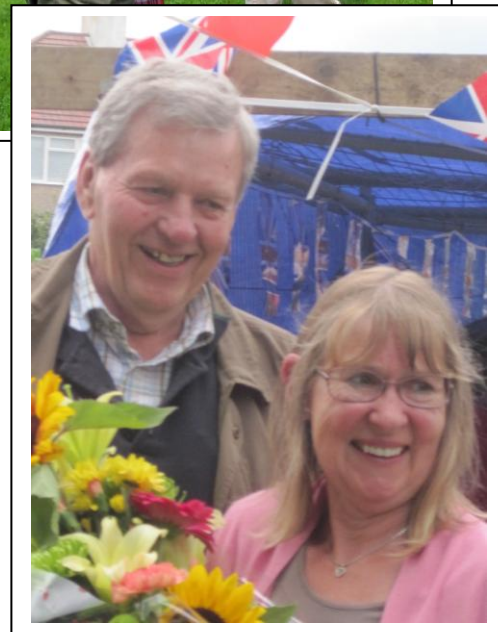
# Ealing Allotments Partnership

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## Oldfields

*One of the major social events of the year at Oldfields is their Summer Barbecue, held this year on Saturday 8th July.*



*This is an association that really knows how to organise a barbecue! Photos include the “barbequing team”; Paula and Stu Lawrence (Oldfield LA’s Chairman) discussing the finer points of vegetable growing with Helen De Jimenez (Chair of EAP); Hilary Jayne (Framfield LA’s Secretary) talking to Michel Le Guilcher (Oldfield Site Manager) and Stephen Cole (Ealing Council’s Allotments Manager) and his wife Marina. Last, and certainly not least, Poul Kristensen and his wife Kristine, managers of the Oldfield Trading Hut and the main organisers of the event.*



## ***Horsenden***

*Horsenden Allotments and Gardens Association (HAAGA) is the Borough's specialist in Flower Shows. They were founded in 1932. The shows themselves started two years later so in 2014 they will be celebrating 80 years of exhibitions!*

*They held their Autumn Show, their third and last of the season, at All Hallows Church Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September. The weather was good and considering the weather in early summer, the exhibits were good both in number and standard. The show was well supported by members and visitors - an enjoyable afternoon for all.*

*HAAGA remind us that they run an excellent Trading Hut, which is open every Sunday morning 10-12 noon through to the end of November 2012, for members to purchase the garden sundries available at advantageous prices. New members are particularly welcome, the subscription being an annual charge of £3.00.*

## ***Acton Gardening Association***

*For the first time in three years it did not rain on the Acton Gardening Association's Open Day held this year on Sunday 2nd September. The guest of honour was top organic chef Barny Haughton, who helped start the huge riverside Bordeaux Quay restaurant in Bristol. He now runs an educational kitchen for young people, and is planning a new restaurant. He cooked food straight from plot holders, who were encouraged to bring him anything. The results were awe inspiring, and set us all using carrot tops in salads, and cooking celery tops for three minutes etc. He was so successful that Ealing Farmers Market now want to hire him! Over 200 hundred people came through the gate.*

*Also appearing were our Prom violinist Laura Samuel, with three young students in a classical quartet; Stephen Vince, Olympic sculptor; John Chapple, Acton's Royal Beekeeper; and our own chicken experts. We also invited Cultivate London, from Brentford to sell plants grown in their youth scheme. Everyone said it was a wonderful day, especially attended by non allotment public. Now we would like to plan an Ealing allotment Weekend Festival. Watch this space!!!*

## ***Ealing and Hanwell***

*The much-heralded return of the "Allotment Show" held on Saturday 8th September was a resounding success. After a year's break, there was a fantastic response with over 200 entries and the organisers would like to thank everyone that entered and those that made it happen again.*

*Winners included Hilary Jayne (who the domestic judge commended for her 'golden touch' in her preserves) and won the prestigious Banksian Medal for all her wonderful efforts; Elaine*

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*Hagan who won the Blue Riband (best in show) for her autumn floral display; Nigel and Lynne Sumner who entered a glorious collection of fruit, vegetables and preserves from their plot and many others too numerous to list. Nigel Sumner was also awarded a Silver RHS medal for his long and sterling service to the show now handed over to Elaine Hagan and Lynne Casey to organise.*

*There was a wonderful tea and cakes stall with cakes made by John Regan's family, a raffle (with lots of prizes) and allotment jams and gifts for sale. A cheerful and fun afternoon enjoyed by all – and it was all written up with glorious pictures in the Ealing Gazette! To access a scan of their article go to the EAP website and look under Latest News.*

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