

Mortlake Community Association

Alder Road Community Garden Newsletter



April was a really busy month! The weather remained mild and dry with a very warm spell over the Easter holiday. We have already had to water the garden! The broad beans continued to grow, and by the end of April, they were covered in flowers. The onions and garlic had also survived the winter well and continued to fatten up nicely. The herbs were all doing well and filling the herb bed with their fabulous aromas.

We cut back the bamboo severely (again) and stripped the canes to make supports for the runner beans. The banana survived the winter although deliberately much reduced to make room for more vegetables in the raised bed. We planted out some geranium cuttings into pots which should give us a good summer display. And we started off runner bean, courgette and tomato seeds indoors – the beans can be planted out in early May, but the tomatoes and courgettes will need a little more hardening off. If we have too many seedlings, we can pot them up and sell them at the Mortlake Weekend, along with the lavender cuttings we took earlier in the year.

We also sowed several vegetable seeds direct into the ground – radish, kalettes, perpetual spinach, more beetroot and Cos lettuce. We sowed Lobjoits's Cos lettuce seeds as they are an old local variety – the Lobjoits were market gardeners who lived in Barnes in the 19th century and who developed this variety of lettuce. Let's hope it does well for us!

Please come and visit the garden at any time – it is always open, and you can sit and enjoy its peaceful surroundings.

**Our next gardening sessions at the Community Garden will be:
Wednesday May 1st and Wednesday May 15th
from 10.30 until 12 noon**

