

# Mortlake Community Association

## Alder Road Community Garden Newsletter



The raised beds in the community garden are now fully planted up with summer crops. And we have plenty of things for the Mortlake Fair on 22 June - over-wintered geranium cuttings, lavender cuttings we took in March; a tray full of tomato plants from seed we took from last year's fruit; a few spare courgette plants, and a whole tray of strawberry runners that we potted up late last year.

We planted out the tomato and courgette plants that we raised from seed as they had been hardened off, and by the end of May they were doing well.

The runner beans are now climbing up their bamboo canes and we have had one crop of radishes; the onions and garlic look as though they are growing well. The seeds we sowed of lettuce, beetroot and spinach last month were all emerging by the end of May. Pigeons have had a go at the kaylettes so we will sow some more seed and cover all the new seedlings with protective mesh. The broad and runner beans have some black fly but spraying them with water containing a few drops of washing up liquid has kept them reasonably under control, and the broad beans themselves will be ready for harvesting soon. There was also some whitefly on the geranium cuttings but the washing up liquid soon cleared them away! The raspberries and strawberries have a lot of fruit which is now ripening.

But it has continued to be very dry again this month so we are having to water the garden with the hose, using the watering can for the more delicate cuttings and seedlings.

The Beavers from the 2nd Mortlake Scout Group have use of half of one of our raised beds and they are growing radishes this year. They will also monitor our runner beans as they grow up their canes. They have also built a very impressive scarecrow; he is very welcome in the garden and can be seen guarding the banana tree!

**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 5th June and Wednesday 19th June  
from 10.30 until 12 noon**

