

Mortlake Community Association

Alder Road Community Garden Newsletter

All of us who work in the garden should make sure our Tetanus jab is up to date. The Tetanus bacteria lives in the soil and so makes us more vulnerable to getting infected. Your practice nurse can give you the jab free. And it doesn't hurt much!



Welcome to September and a touch of autumn in the garden. We had to contend with heavy rains, long dry periods and record high temperatures again in August, but we harvested beetroot, radish, tomatoes, raspberries, runner beans, herbs, courgettes and lettuce. Some of the beds will be cleared during September although the artichokes, heritage runner beans, all the herbs, cavolo nero and kaylettes should still be available through until Christmas.

We plan to make some changes to the garden next year – move the runner beans and strawberries to new beds, build a fruit cage for the blueberries and brassicas, and make a frame for the raspberries. But to give the garden more space and light we have cut down the buddleia and started to get rid of all the bamboo. It would be good to make a shrub and flower border in place of the bamboo. The fig tree will also get a serious pruning in the winter. The banana is bursting its way out of the raised bed, so its days are probably numbered. The strawberry runners need potting up in September. But we have already taken rosemary and lavender cuttings for next year. So, it looks like a busy autumn!

We continue to learn about growing fruit and vegetables – the courgettes need more light and space, for example. So please do bring your thoughts and knowledge to the gardening group when you next visit as well as ideas for what you would like to grow next year.

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 4 September and Wednesday 18 September
from 10.30 until 12 noon**

