

Background

Edible Golden Lane was set-up in May 2010 to accommodate 21 tonne bags half-filled with topsoil for use by residents of Golden Lane Estate to grow vegetables and fruit. This grew to 39 bags and a children's digging box. The first stage of the project was funded by Capital Growth. (A partnership between London Food Link, Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Big Lottery's Local Food Fund.) We have since received small grants from the City of London CVS and in March 2016 we received funds from Tesco's Bags for Help and replaced the bags with 42 boxes.

The project is managed by the Golden Baggers, a voluntary group of residents who are committed to improving the use of the open spaces and enhancing the greening of the Estate. The allotment gardeners continue to be called 'Baggers' and the boxes "bags".

How the Project Works

1. The project is to promote a community of baggers and encourage the sharing of vegetable plants, seeds and seedlings, produce, experience and knowledge.
2. The allotment is for people who live on the estate and are free to work on their bag throughout the productive season.
3. Baggers are expected to grow vegetables and fruit. The bags are not for growing flowers or shrubs. There are communal rosemary and bay bushes along with other perennial herbs and these are not permitted in bags.
4. The productive season is defined as March to October.
5. Each bag is individually leased for the year. It is the responsibility of each 'bagger' to look after and care for their bags. Baggers must agree to and sign the terms and conditions on each renewal
6. **If a bag is left unkempt, or un-worked for more than 8 weeks during the productive season the bagger will be asked to pass it on to the next person on the waiting list.** If you are **unwell** or likely to be away from the estate for over **one month** you **must** contact the membership secretary or ask a member of your family or a friend to do so.
7. Should you wish to give up your bag, contact the membership secretary.
8. The bag cannot be passed on and **must be returned to be reallocated** by the committee if the bagger leaves the estate or no longer wishes to use it.
9. The allotments are communal and apart from the bags everything is shared. Any pots must be placed around the edge of the allotment or designated areas and not in the pathways that need to be kept clear so that all can access.
10. An annual subscription is charged to buy compost and small tools.
11. The subscription is due on the 1st of March. If not received by 31st March the bag will be reallocated so that those on the waiting list get a full growing season.
12. Baggers **must** provide the membership secretary with their address, telephone number and email address and must notify any changes.
13. The communal fruit and herbs are for everyone's enjoyment. Use what you need but make sure there is some left for others to enjoy.
14. Dogs are not allowed on the estate however assistance dogs can be brought on site as long as it's kept on a lead, strictly under control at all times and only kept by your bag.

Duties/Responsibilities

1. Baggers are expected to contribute and participate in the activities and to help in the general upkeep of the site.
2. In line with the purpose of the Golden Baggers, members are expected to grow vegetables and fruit - decorative flowers and shrubs are not permitted. Members who fail to do this will be asked to return their bag.
3. Activities that members are expected to help with are listed under Activities.
4. When the allotments are opened to the estate residents or general public Baggers are expected to help beforehand or during the event so that we make the most impact.
5. The committee members manage the wildlife area. Do not plant, weed or tidy this area without prior agreement.
6. Baggers are expected to compost their green and brown material as directed in the **composting guide**.
7. Baggers will be expected to volunteer to be in a small team looking after the composting tasks throughout the year.
8. If members have support needs, they must advise the committee so that reasonable adjustments can be considered.
9. Baggers may use the allotments for socialising with other members. **The allotments are not to be used for private parties**
10. Any surplus seedlings/plants or surplus of produce can be left on the table for other baggers use.

Information

1. There is an outside tap with attached hose for the watering of the bags. The baggers are asked to keep the hose tidy. In especially dry periods, Baggers are asked to be aware of neighbouring bags and to water communally.

GOLDEN BAGGERS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

2. "Water Me" and "Help yourself" flags are in the shed if you are away on holiday and need someone to water your bag or harvest ripe fruit.
3. The water butt has a filter/diverter valve; this has to be regularly checked and will be a Social Sunday task
4. There is a children's box for digging and planting play. Please tidy up around if soil ends up on the ground
5. There is a blackboard on site, to act as a point of information for the baggers.
6. A tool shed has an assortment of hand tools and gloves for use by everyone.
7. Any problems, broken tools etc. should be reported to the committee members.
8. A list of contacts is available in the tool shed.
9. A first-aid kit is available in the tool shed.
10. Any incidents/accidents on site must be reported to one of the committee members and recorded in the Incident Book that is kept in the tool shed.

Activities

Members are expected to contribute to activities throughout the year.

1. Organising/ helping with Social Sundays
2. Help in organising trips and outings for members and residents.
3. Help in organising London Open Gardens and other public or estate open days
4. Weed and prune the communal herb and fruit boxes and the wildlife area
5. Weed the paths and sweep up leaves etc.
6. Help with composting and rotating composter when visiting the allotments
7. Tidying and maintaining the children's shed and equipment
8. Tidying the shed and cleaning the tools

Golden Baggers is insured through the RHS and is an affiliated member of the RHS.

We seek outside funding for projects but baggers are asked to help by volunteering their time to maintain the allotment.

Volunteers can earn time credits for the time spent organising events, working on social Sundays and helping with all aspects of Open Garden Squares Weekend

The project is temporary in nature and subject to approval from City of London for continued use.