

Volunteer welcome pack

Introduction

Welcome to the Cobham Community Garden which aims to encourage the local community to become more engaged in growing and eating local, sustainably produced fruit and vegetables and to promote a greener lifestyle through recycling, composting, reducing water use, etc.

It is the aim of the Cobham Community Garden to encourage volunteering. We believe that volunteering should be a happy, productive, safe and beneficial experience - both for volunteers and the Community Garden. Everyone involved with the garden is a volunteer.

Useful contacts

Volunteers Director Sylvia Williams

e-mail Hello@CobhamCommunityGarden.org.uk

Website <http://www.CobhamCommunityGarden.org.uk>

Opening hours

Saturday 10:00 – 12:00

If we are unable to open we will try to let you know on the website; sorry if we don't manage it.

Getting there

The garden is on the South side of the Leg O'Mutton field, just behind the Allotments & near the skate park. There is some free parking a short walk away just across Cobham Bridge, and the pay council car park is just across the road. You are welcome to come by bicycle and leave it within the garden during your visit. For buses the 515, 408, 513 and of course Cobham's own Chatterbus (C1 & C2) all stop opposite or close to Waitrose, which is nearby.

What to bring

Enthusiasm is the main requirement, but stout footwear & gardening gloves are strongly recommended. Given this is England then perhaps a waterproof might be wise. You may wish to bring some refreshment, but please take any rubbish home with you.

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On arrival

Please make yourself known to the Garden duty manager and ensure you sign in so that we can record the hours that you work; these records will be used to determine your level of discount when we come to sell the harvest (see Reward policy).

On your first visit, please tell us a little about your gardening experience (if any) and what things you might enjoy doing in the garden. You will be asked to complete some registration details and asked to read and sign the Health & Safety guidelines.

Reward policy

The Cobham Community Garden aims to finance its activities primarily through selling produce to members. Anyone can join and membership is free. Members are not obliged to spend any time in the garden if they do not wish to, but will receive our newsletter and be entitled to discounts on the purchase of garden produce. These discounts start at the basic level of 10% for everyone and increase dependent on the number of hours actually spent working in the garden over any 12 month period. Produce will be priced based on local supermarkets.

Hours worked	Discount
All members	10%
10	20%
20	30%
30	40%
50	50%
70	60%

These figures are our initial thoughts on creating a balance between encouraging volunteers and financing the garden. We may change this policy at any time.

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Health & Safety Guidelines

Staying healthy & safe is everyone's business. Here are a few guidelines to help keep you from harm in the garden. On your first volunteering visit, you will be asked to sign a copy of these guidelines.

Children under 14 years must be supervised at all times by their responsible adult.

First aid – a basic First Aid kit is available in the shed.

Please wear gloves, stout shoes or boots, and consider eye protection.

If you are new to gardening or returning from an absence, beware of taking on too much heavy work, particularly of a repetitious nature. Break yourself in gradually.

Don't do any activity that you think might be beyond your abilities - just let the Garden duty manager know and we will find something more suitable.

Only lift weights that are within your capability, and apply proper & appropriate lifting techniques.

Use tools for the purpose they were intended, and in the manner they were designed to be used. If you are not sure, please ask.

Beware of leaning onto plant stakes in the ground – they may be close to your face & difficult to spot. All plant stakes should have eye protection at the top - If you see an unprotected stake, please get it capped.

Adults only may use sharp tools, power tools or chemicals after consulting with the duty manager. Correct protective clothing must be worn.

Beware of sharp objects such as needles, broken glass, brambles, etc. which may be concealed in soil or growth. Brambles may be removed with care (thick gloves!) but other sharps must be reported to the duty manager.

Any animal droppings found should be removed to the appropriate bin - avoid contact with your skin.

If you are unsure about anything, don't be embarrassed to ask – the Garden duty manager will be pleased to help.

Please remember to wash your hands after gardening.