

November 2025

MAGA

MARTIN WAY ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT EDITION

Self-Management

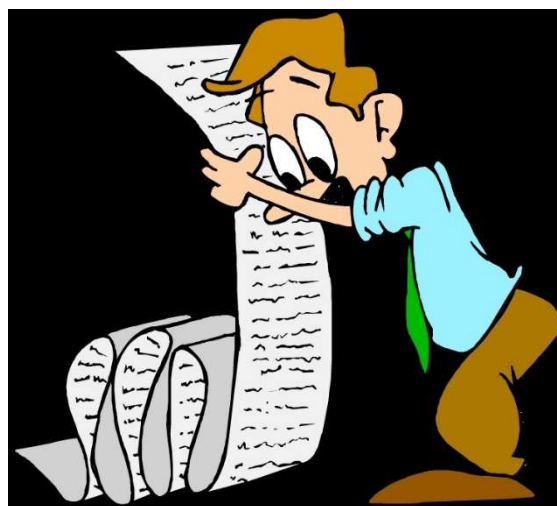
The Merton Allotment Gardens site has been self-managed for the last 12 years.

The London Borough of Merton still owns the site but MAGA has an elected Committee that looks after the site's day to day running.

The MAGA Committee

There are five people on the Committee and it is responsible for all aspects of the management of the site. What does this mean?

- Looking after the finances including the collection of rents and the payment of services (e.g. water bill).
- The Committee meets eleven times per year via Discord - the meetings are about 2 hours.
- The AGM where tenants receive the annual report and have the opportunity to ask questions.
- The organising of the events; the Plant Sale, the Produce Show and Pumpkinfest.
- Organising the supply of manure, meeting the driver on site and paying.
- Organising the supply of wood chips.
- Organising Work Parties.
- Appointing inspectors for the twice annual inspections of plots.
- Maintenance, e.g. fences, roads, water tanks etc. etc.
- Production of the Newsletter.



MAGA Martin Way Allotment News is produced 2-3 times per year by Committee members and volunteers.

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- Supervision of the shop.
- Producing the annual invoices and monitoring payment.
- Production of the annual financial report.
- Arranging for the letting of plots. MAGA has a short waiting list and people only have to wait approximately two years.
- Handling correspondence and the occasional disputes.
- Arranging insurance

The Committee is supported by volunteers, for example the shop which opens for 9 months of the year has around 28 shop helpers who are organised by Kay Prior.

There are Working Parties usually on a Saturday morning on 5/6 occasions during the year. A Working Party will carry out different jobs such as repairing holes in the roads, cutting back hedges, the boundary with David Lloyd was cleared which enabled 134 metres of new fencing to be installed, tidying up plots to relet etc.

The Working Parties are reliant on you volunteering to help. They are a great opportunity to meet other plot holders and you are playing a part in maintaining our self-managed site. Paul Brace is the organiser

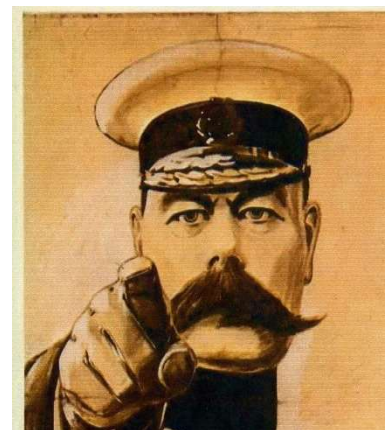
Your site has three annual events each year which need an organiser who is supported by the Committee and volunteers.

The Plant Sale



The Plant Sale is the main fund raiser and is usually held in May. Many of our plot holders donate plants they have grown just for the sale and we 'buy in' plants. This event is the only one open to the public and you can help by distributing leaflets in your street or neighbourhood or just display a poster in your front window. This year our organiser was Steph Wyatt, thank you Steph (Plot 68). An organiser is needed for 2026 -

Is that you?





The Produce Show

The Produce Show is held at the beginning of September and it is your opportunity to show the produce you have grown on your plot. This event is very well supported and we have dozens of entries. The judging is the responsibility of the MAGA Chairperson and the overall winner from the previous year, or we may invite a guest from another allotment in the borough. We have to be flexible!

So if you have a very tall sunflower, a huge pumpkin, beetroot, carrots, tomatoes, herbs etc., or fancy baking a cake or making jam or chutney please give it serious thought.



In 2026 we will include a social get together outside the marquee with drinks and snacks. This year our organiser was Philippa Tribler (Plot 134). Thank you Philippa.

The Pumpkinfest



The final event of the year is the Pumpkinfest held on the last Sunday in October, this year the on the 26th just as the clocks went back. The favourite event for our junior members, too young to have a plot but old enough to carve a pumpkin, eat a burger or a sausage and have a soft drink. We also cater for you with mulled wine, beer, wine, hot soup and there are enough burgers and sausages to go round at just £1, and donations are very welcome.

Many thanks to Miranda Waller and her husband Martin (Plot 99) for organising this event. This is their third year.



HELP NEEDED for 2026

All this sounds good, but more volunteers are needed. Could you organise the Plant Sale in 2026?

The Plant Sale organiser is supported by people who have done the job themselves and by two or more Committee members. On the day of the sale many people help with the setting up, the pricing and the selling. Our Treasurer and Secretary provide a cash float and money bags.

The raffle is a separate entity and has been organised by Jadzia Bruton for many years, and Jadzia the Committee will be asking yet again! Thank you Jadzia, your contribution is highly valued.

Shop Management

There is a vacancy for the Shop Manager position.

The shop is open 9 months of the year February to October on Saturday and Sunday 10.30-12.30 except in July and August when it only opens on a Sunday. As previously mentioned, the manning of the shop volunteers is organised by Kay.

The Manager's main responsibility is for stock control and ordering replacement stock. To assist with this task, all sales are recorded by the helpers when made and they make a note when stock is running low. The order for seed potatoes is made in October and placed jointly with Cambridge Allotments to lower the price.



The Shop Manager is not expected to attend the shop on opening days, but it is good management to pop in and say hello to the volunteers

Please consider this role and if you want to talk it through in more detail we will arrange to meet

CONCLUSION

The site being self-managed means the Committee members are responsible for all aspects of the site. This can only be achieved with the help of volunteers and the Committee is very grateful for your support. But there is always room for more help and all that you need to give is 2-3 hours per YEAR. This would be a real contribution.

What can you do? Grow some plants for the Plant Sale, flowers or vegetables. Distribute leaflets in your street advertising the Plant Sale or put a poster in your front window.

For the Produce Show just enter a veg or flower you have grown or maybe help on the day to book entries. You may even win and receive a voucher to spend in the shop!

The Pumpkinfest looks for volunteers to make soup, mulled wine, serve drinks and food etc.

The working parties could always do with extra hands to spread the workload.

Thank you if you have read this far. Will you consider volunteering for 2-3 hours per year with no ongoing commitment? Your time will be much appreciated. If you are interested, please email ivorstocker@sky.com

Thank you
The MAGA Committee