



Barracks Lane Community Garden

Charity No. 1116544 and incorporated as Company No. 05945388

PRESS RELEASE

14 June 2010

Chicken success at community garden

People came from as far as Didcot to take part in Barracks Lane Community Garden's Chicken Day on Saturday. Over 130 people attended the popular event in Cowley, learning about how to keep chickens on your allotment or at home in your garden.

Children and adults alike enjoyed meeting Lorraine's chickens, Phyllis, Macy and Minnie, as they wandered about the garden. Lorraine spoke about their lovely social habits, and answered questions on how she looks after chickens in her small Oxford garden.

Local author and poultry keeper, Julia Hollander, launched her new book, *Chicken Coops for the Soul* to a large crowd gathered in the garden's yurt. Julia read extracts from her new book and spoke about the housing, food, health, social habits, weeding abilities and legal issues of keeping chickens at home and on your allotment.

Many people expressed excitement about keeping chickens, with many saying that the event gave them the information they needed and that they now felt ready to begin chicken keeping themselves.

Barracks Lane Community Garden's Chicken Day event is part of a series of Local Food Programme events being put on at the garden between 2010 and 2012. The next event will be 'Bee and Honey Day' on Saturday 10th July. The workshops are free and open to all. The garden is situated on Barracks Lane, off Cumberland Road, in Cowley/East Oxford. See website <http://www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk> for further details.

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Notes

1. Photos:
 - a. Phyllis the chicken, a topic of discussion between generations.
 - b. Lorraine with her Speckled Hen, Minnie.
 - c. Julia Hollander speaking about chicken keeping in the yurt.

Photo credits: Julieanne Porter

2. Barracks Lane Community Garden is a community-run green space off the Cowley Road in Cowley/East Oxford. It hosts many regular events as well as special and annual events.

It is also open every weekend from Easter to autumn for all to visit and enjoy. The garden can be booked for children's parties, meetings, workshops, and other community events. Barracks Lane Community Garden, Barracks Lane, off Cumberland Road, Oxford OX4 2AP, E: barrackslanegarden@yahoo.co.uk, W: <http://www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk/>

3. Julia Hollander, previously an opera director, is now a writer, journalist and playwright. She is the author of *Indian Folk Theatres* (Routledge, 2007) and *When the Bough Breaks* (John Murray, 2008), which she also dramatised for Radio 4. She has written features and blogs for the Guardian and Telegraph newspapers and for a variety of magazines including Opera Now, The Spectator and Red. Julia lives in Oxford with her family and chickens. *Chicken Coops for the Soul* is available from Guardian Books, <http://www.guardianbooks.co.uk/>.
4. Local Food: has been developed by a consortium of 15 national environmental organisations, and is managed on their behalf by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT). Supported by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme, Local Food will distribute grants to a variety of food related projects to make locally grown food more accessible. www.localfood.org

The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT): is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, to promote conservation and manage environmental programmes throughout the whole of the UK. It has established management systems for holding and distributing funds totalling more than £20 million annually to environmental projects across the UK.

The Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme was launched in November 2005 to help communities enjoy and improve their local environments. The programme funds a range of activities from local food schemes and farmers markets, to education projects teaching people about the local environment. The Big Lottery Fund, the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, has been rolling out £2 million in Lottery good cause money every 24 hours to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.

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