

Grange Lane Committee Elections 2022 - Standing for the position of Co-Chairs



Vaulda Simmons - Plot 74

Nominated by Fevronia Kiparissi - Plot 72

Vaulda Simmons

I am standing for the position of co-chair along with William. I have been a plot holder at Grange Lane for over 30 years. At one point I had two plots but as I have got older, I reduced down to one. Even that was getting a bit much for me but three years ago I had a chance meeting with William, who has helped me transform my plot to one that keeps me going with fresh vegetables all year.

As you may have noticed there have been many changes happening recently that William and I have made happen. The lease with the DE has been secured for 25 years ending any concerns that anyone had, that we could loose our beloved allotment and the desires of the membership have been listened to, to allow structures. I would like to have the oppurtunity to be co-chair so I can see these positive changes through, whilst bringing a fresh perspective to running the committee.

I look forward to working with William and other committee members if we are successful in becoming co-chairs. If we are unsuccessful in becoming co-chairs then I will join the committee as a member to promote fairness and decency.

I am retired.

William Stanley

I am putting myself forward for the position of co-chair alongside Vaulda. I have known the allotments all my life having grown up in Dulwich, spending many an hour in the woods looking for nuthatches, treecreepers and sparrowhawks. I began as a helper 3 years ago and now have my own plot which I am looking forward to making highly productive and growing lots of fruit and vegetables.

Vaulda and I have been instrumental in bringing about the changes that are currently being promoted and this has led to the Dulwich Estate renewing the lease for 25 years. I would like to put myself forward for this leadership role to be able to continue to steer the allotment in a positive direction for the future. I am an experienced gardener and vegetable grower and am always willing to offer help and advice. Vaulda and I will run a committee that is fair and egalitarian.

If we are successful in becoming co-chairs I look forward to working with Vaulda and the other committee members who become elected. If we are unsuccessful in becoming co-chairs then like Vaulda, I will still join the committee as a member to be a voice of fairness and decency.

I am an architectural designer, artist, sculpter and jewellery designer. I have a multitude of practical skills and IT skills. As well as running my design businesses, I have been the director of my residents association for over 10 years which includes maintaining harmony between 18 leaseholders and their tenants, arranging insurance policies, appointing and working with managing agents, attending tribunals, engaging contractors and carrying out major building works myself etc.

As co-chairs of the committee, the direction we would like to take the allotment in will include the following:

1. Create a disabled access plot in line with the 2010 Equality Act.
2. Number of plots allocated will be based on the number in your household and how many people you are intending to feed. (See appendix)
3. The committee will be responsible for mowing and mainting main paths. (See appendix)
4. Allow sheds, polytunnels and greenhouses with restrictions based on the new lease with the Dulwich Estate and 2/3rds cultivation rule.
5. Make sure there is a consistent application of the rules.
 - Rules apply to everyone including the committee.
 - Code of conduct applies to everyone including the committee.
6. All helpers will become full members as non-plotholder members.
 - Long standing helpers who have helped on plots for an equivilent amount of time to being on the waiting list will be able to inherit plot.
7. Allow battery operated water pumps for hose use. (See appendix)
8. Seek funding for two additional composting toilets to be situated on the West of the site.
9. The committee will clear plots for new tenants. (See appendix)
10. Bins.
 - Obtain additional blue bin for general waste.
 - Do away with brown bins and create communal compost zone. (See appendix)
11. Limit holding of committee positions to three years unless no one steps forward.
12. All committee meeting votes to be recorded for transparency.

If you like our ideas and would like to join us in holding positions on the committee then we welcome your involvement. If you would like to discuss our ideas before the AGM then we are happy to hear from you.

You can contact either of us at:

voteforvauldaandwilliam@hotmail.com

or call 07455022898

Appendix

2. Number of plots allocated will be based on the number in your household and how many people you are intending to feed.

Number of plots allowed.

One plot per person.

Or 3 plots per household depending on how many people you are feeding rule.

Rule - 250sqm is enough to feed a family of four.

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/>

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news/plot-sizes-a-statement-by-our-chairman/>

GLA plots are 125sqm

Household of 1: 1 plot (125sqm)

Household of 2: 1 plot

Household of 3: 1.5 plots

Household of 4: 2 plots (250sqm)

Household of 5: 2.5 plots

Household of 6+: 3 plots (Maximum)

All plot holders will be allocated 1 plot and then have the opportunity to increase the number of plots they have depending on the number in their household that they are feeding. This will only happen if they are properly cultivating their plot and will clearly utilise the extra space. They will have to join the waiting list for an additional plot. If a plot holder fails to cultivate their extra plots appropriately then their number of plots will be reduced. Half plots will be offered to those who are unable to manage 1 plot.

Those who currently have a number of plots that could produce an amount of food that is greater than the number in their household will be given the choice of which of their excess plots they relinquish back to the waiting list. If they can't choose or refuse then the committee will appropriate the plots and reallocate them to those on the waiting list.

3. The committee will be responsible for mowing and maintaining main paths.

The current drainage strategy is not fit for purpose. The committee will identify the wettest areas across the site and install french drains covered with a rigid geo cell mesh in those areas. If necessary slabs will be laid on top of the geocell.

We will do away with ditches which serve no purpose other than channeling water down the site and creating trip hazards.

7. Allow battery operated water pumps for hose use.

The Bosch 18V water pump is a great addition to an allotment. You can place the pump in your nearest water tank and connect a hose for watering your vegetables. It draws water at a slower rate than filling up a 10L watering can in a continuous cycle, thus having less impact on the sites dynamic pressure. If everybody used these pumps on busy days, then your water tanks would not drain as fast. Two 2.5Ah batteries last long enough to water your whole plot. Additionally, for our elderly or disabled members who find walking up and down with a watering can to water their plots difficult, provisions must be made to adhere to the 2010 Equality Act.

9. The committee will clear plots for new tenants.

To prevent new tenants being met with an overgrown plot to deal with which becomes a disincentive to make a start, the committee will clear plots and get them ready for new tenants.

The committee will also clear the abandoned plots over on the west of the site so they can be rented out.

10. Do away with brown bins and create communal compost zone.

Every year money is wasted on paying for the brown bins when we can compost on site. A communal composting zone will be created in the car park. Dulwich College maintenance team will be engaged to come up once every three months with their digger to turn the compost for us.