

# **Abundance Update**

## **July 2013**

This warm weather is really bringing on the fruit now. Although the apples still seem to be weeks away, some blackberries are beginning to ripen up - hopefully we can start picking soon. So we should plan what to do with the fruit.

### **What happens to the fruit?**

In previous years, fruit has been shared amongst garden owners, fruit pickers and local good causes. If there is fruit left over, it has been offered to the Abundance network including some people who make and sell jam from home (when we do ask for a contribution of some finished product back to Abundance).

Last year we donated 325 kilos to local charities, two thirds of which went to the Wimbledon Guild. With the expected closure of the Wimbledon Guild's nursing home, we've identified some more local charities who can distribute fruit to those in need. These include Merton & Morden Guild, several groups in Mitcham and Colliers Wood, social housing organisations, as well as the YMCA and Faith in Action. We may also supply some schools, depending on how much fruit we have.

### **Preparing for Fruit Day - Sat 21st Sept**

Fruit Day is a little later this year - but the fruit is much later. So that we have enough jars of jam, chutney etc. to sell on Fruit Day, we will need to be well organised.

So if you think you might be able to turn fruit into something sellable, then please get in touch and we'll supply you with fruit. You are of course welcome to keep much of what you make, but we will ask if you can donate a few jars back to Abundance. If anyone would like to make a batch of jam etc. for Fruit Day, we are happy to recompense you for the cost of making it i.e. other ingredients and cooking costs.

It looks like apples will be the main fruit this summer. So perhaps you have some ideas about what can be added to apples to make an interesting range of jams.

### **Getting the most from Fruit Trees**

Fruit trees need water especially in the period up to harvesting. Thankfully, heavy overnight rain has kept the trees nicely watered over the last few days. But if there is another dry period, please try to water any fruit trees in your garden or near where you live. They need about a bucketful of water a week at this time to maintain the fruit on their branches, otherwise the tree could drop the fruit prematurely.

And finally, it's good to do new things. So please get in touch if you have any ideas about what else we could do.