

# *Uplands is managed by a Co-operative*

*Co-operatives are one of the world's hidden success stories.*

800 million people across the world are members of co-operatives and they exist in almost all countries . Co-operatives have been the means of saving community facilities, from village stores to football teams and even schools.

See what has been achieved at Uplands since the co-operative was formed? We have a fantastic Community Garden, a clay oven for community use, a new footbridge across the brook, the front of the store renovated, a new kitchen for the club house and its beautiful wood block floor restored. We produce and bottle our own honey and have started pressing apple juice from the surplus fruit on site.

And there's more to come!

## **THE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

What an incredible difference this makes to the entrance area! Our thanks go to Prologis, an international logistics company for the funding and to Whiting Landscape, (a Company which started in Handsworth 40 years ago) for the impressive landscaping work. They performed a near miracle on a piece of land which was waterlogged and badly overgrown.

What do you want to see in Phase Two? Ideas include a sensory garden (for blind persons) and a tactile track (for young children). Wesleyan Insurance have provided volunteers and would like to stay in touch. There's plenty of scope for individual or small group inputs such as climbing plants and unusual items, including vegetables and fruits.

## **WORKING WITH OTHERS**

Possibly the most successful event at Uplands for decades was the Open Day on 8th June last. This was a joint event with the Handsworth Wood Residents Association.

Almost 1,000 people attended during the course of the day. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham formally opened the Community Garden and unveiled the Dedication Plaque in the centre of the garden.

Working together works! We've worked with university students, local businesses, local schools - and the results are here to be seen. We have hardly scratched the surface on what is possible through co-operation!

## **THE YOUNG ARE OUR FUTURE!**

*Funding has been obtained to help start on an OPEN AIR CLASSROOM*  
The future of allotments and local food production depends on getting YOUNG PEOPLE involved! Plot holders are fantastic 'ambassadors' and are so welcoming to young people when they visit - thanks to all those who have given their time and expertise so freely so often!

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The open air classroom idea means that there will be somewhere in addition to the club house for school groups to meet and get involved. Your local Area Team may be able to act as a calling point for visiting school groups? Would you agree to a conducted tour around your local Area, explaining to young people what you produce on your plots?

## **BUILDING A BUSINESS?**

We have a store and sales counter. There are proposals for a 'catering hub'. Our Co-operative can provide support for business minded people.

if you are interested in retail, gardening supplies or food processing, then talk with the Association. We'd love to see the store open on more than the usual weekend hours!

We already produce, bottle and label, our own Uplands honey. We can add jams; juices; chutneys to the list. Or maybe you have craft ideas using natural products such as locally sourced wood.