

Meet your fellow Gardeners in the Bushy Park Allotments

Meet John

1. *Who are you?*

John

2. *How long have you been in the BPA?*

From 1992, so 32 years

3. *Why did you originally want to have an allotment plot?*

I started my own business in 1992. It is always a demanding and time-consuming thing to do. My wife suggested that I should take up a hobby to avoid working 24/7 with work only. So we took an allotment plot -actually we had two of them in the first years. At that time there was no queues to get here. Later as we got a greenhouse built we decided to give up the other plot so running only this one now.

4. *What are your main interests in gardening here, what do you especially like to grow?*

Mainly vegetables and fruits. Potatoes, beans, haricots, soft fruits like raspberries and blackberries. Rhubarb and asparagus are perennials. Basically we concentrate on plants that grow well, to make it easy. Last few years also quite a lot of flowers. They are nice to cut and take back home.

The wildlife is important. We always investigate ways to try avoiding using any unnatural pest control. It can be seen how insect life is declining.

5. *Any success stories or hints to share with your fellow gardeners?*

Raised beds are good. In that way you can concentrate on what that specific plant 'needs' – if it needs more protection, or a specific manure, fertiliser or maybe side-plant to protect it and support its growth.

6. *Any lessons learned?*

The ways how to take care and protect different varieties of vegetables and fruits I suppose.

7. *Future plans for your gardening?*

No specific future plans.

-- Thank you John ! --

