



Dear Members of MESS

Open Gardens Fund Raising Event 20th and or 21 May 2017

You may recall that in June 2015, 'MESS' and 'FiSH Neighbourhood Care' jointly organised an Open Gardens event in East Sheen. This was a great success and raised a significant sum of money. Both organisations again need to raise funds next year; FiSH to support their work with elderly and vulnerable people in our communities and MESS towards the restoration of the Air Raid Shelter at St Leonard's Court, so that school children particularly can visit. We therefore plan to jointly run another Open Gardens event in May 2017 and very much hope it will be even more successful than our last one.

This year the focus will again be on beautiful and interesting gardens in East Sheen and Mortlake and we are writing to ask for your help in recruiting gardens which may be suitable for this event. There are three ways in which you can help:

■ If you have a neighbour or a friend who has a garden in East Sheen or Mortlake which is much admired, could you talk to them about the possibility of opening it next year. Put them in touch with the organisers listed at the end of this letter and they will make contact to talk it through.

■ If you have a garden in East Sheen or Mortlake to which you lovingly devote time and resources to cultivating its beauty, would you consider opening it in support of our two great causes? If you are happy to, or would like to talk it over, please get in touch with one of the organisers listed at the end of this letter.

■ In 2015 our classic cars exhibition at the tea-spot in the Home Guard Club was a great success. If you know someone who owns a classic car or if you own one yourself and may be interested in showing it, please get in touch.

We understand the initial concerns you may have, particularly, if you have not opened your garden or shown your car before. Both FiSH and MESS have a lot of experience in managing this event and we can assure you that safety and security is of primary importance to us.

We hope that, should we recruit enough gardens, we will be able to spread the event over both Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 May. 'Gardeners' would be able to choose which day to open or to choose to be open on both days. Gardens will be open between 2 and 6pm. Maps will clearly indicate on which days each garden is open. These will not be released earlier than two weeks before the event. MESS and FiSH will also be looking for offers of help from members and volunteers as; garden sitters, selling tickets and serving teas. Please put these two dates in your diaries and we will be in touch in due course. Many thanks for your help in the past. Your support could make a real difference to the important work being done by both organisations in the community. We look forward to another highly successful collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun Lamplough
Chair, Mortlake with East Sheen Society

Jenny Hughes
Director, FiSH Neighbourhood Care

If you can help us please contact us on info@mess.org.uk