



Welcome to our Spring edition; we look forward (we hope!) to a great planting and growing season on our plots and in our gardens.

NEWS & EVENTS**ANNUAL SHOW-Saturday
16 August 2008**

The Show and Fete is the biggest event in the WAHGA calendar, so reserve the date in your diary now. Show schedules will be available in the Trading Sheds and on the website by the beginning of April. If anyone would like a schedule posted to them, please send a C5 SAE to Gardeners Hall, 213 St Leonard's Road, Windsor, SL4 3DR and we will be happy to send one on to you

**CAR BOOT SALE-Sunday
13th April at Gardeners Hall**

Come and sell, buy or do both! You can set up stalls inside from 7.30 am (£7 a stall) or outside (£5 each). Entrance for buyers is just 50p. Parking will be at Trevelyan School. Contact Joe for more details on 07917 275255

OUTINGS:**Hatfield House-Thursday 19 June**

Built by Robert Cecil in 1611, this fine Jacobean house has a superb interior and gardens. The ticket price is £17.50 which covers travel, entry to the house, park and west garden. You can also visit the east garden for an extra charge, or if you only want to visit the grounds (no house access) the cost will be £14.50. Departure 9.30 am Gardeners Hall.

Wisley-Wednesday 16 July

A chance to see the new Millennium Glasshouse. Tickets cost £8.00 and the coach leaves Gardeners Hall at 10am, returning at 4pm.

To book for either of these trips please use the enclosed form.

See page 4 and the website for more events.

www.wahga.org.uk

MAGIC BEANS:

Fenella Munt shares with us some of the fun of sprouting bean seeds

All gardeners have a “once upon a time”. Close your eyes and dream about the day that you first put a seed on wet paper inside a jam jar. Every morning you would wake up, wide-eyed and excited that yours would grow into the giant beanstalk that would take you to treasures on high. Whether you are aged 5 or 105 there is always magic attached to growing seeds, particularly if you can eat them too!

Magic beans and seeds such as mung beans, alfalfa, quinoa, lentils and sunflowers are easy to grow and healthy to eat. They only need water, air and warmth plus a tiny bit of tender loving care.

Start the magic now! You don’t need a magic wand, just a jam jar. Simply put some seeds into the jar (not too many seeds as they will increase in volume), fill up with water and allow the seeds to soak overnight. In the meantime, cut a small piece of muslin or net curtain to cover the top of the jar and secure over the top with a rubber band. In the morning, pour out the water through the muslin cover and then add more water to wash and shake the seeds. Drain off the water and leave the jar of seeds on the windowsill. Do this “wash, shake and drain” process again in the evening. Keep repeating this process for 3 – 5 days.

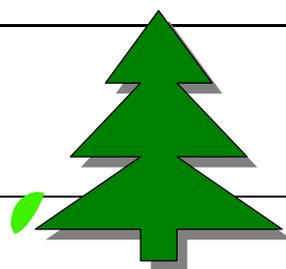
Every day you will see how your seeds are sprouting, ready for you to eat. Sprouted seeds are a delicious source of vitamins, minerals, proteins and fibre and are really tasty in sandwiches, salads and stir-fries.

Magic beans inspired me to start gardening so who knows where the magic will take you?

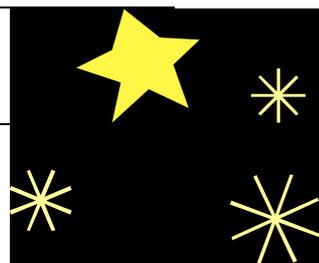
NO SUBSCRIPTION: NO NEWSLETTER !

May I gently remind you that the subscription year runs from October to September. We are now half way through the year and still have about 90 members who have not yet renewed their memberships. At £4 the membership fee is a great bargain, what else can you buy for that these days? Check your wallets and purses, if your membership card isn’t yellow, it’s out of date. If you haven’t paid, this will be the last newsletter sent to you. If you haven’t received this newsletter directly, please check we have your latest contact details. E-mail is a good way to receive your newsletter in colour, so send us your details to membership@wahga.org.uk

Thanks, Lesley (Membership Secretary)



REPORTS FROM THE STARS OF YOUR COMMITTEE



John Filmer, our Purchasing Officer, reports on the Trading Sheds:

Our potatoes were safely received from the suppliers and for the most part we've distributed them to the many of you who grow your own. A few of you have yet to collect: please can you do so as soon as possible. We had some difficulty with the onion sets because of problems with the supplier and there are very few left.

This year looks as if it will involve some price increase for some of our most popular lines. We will do our best to keep any increases to a minimum.

Here's hoping for a better gardening year than last.
Many thanks to all of you who help in the sheds.

John

Don Hartridge, our Allotment Secretary, reports on lettings and other news.

I am pleased to report that we continue to see increasing demand for allotments. In recent months we have reclaimed uncultivated land on some sites and this is rapidly being occupied by new tenants. As we are now struggling to satisfy demand, it has been agreed that future applications will only be accepted from residents of the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The improving situation places greater responsibility on all of us. As waiting lists grow longer, it is not reasonable for plots to remain uncultivated. If you feel that you are unable to fulfil your commitment for whatever reason, please speak to me or to your site supervisor to see if we can offer suggestions to assist your situation.

Recent months have been good for winter digging and hopefully many of you are now ready to start the new growing season. The trading sheds are stocked and now is the time to resolve to enter your produce in our show in August. It does not matter if you have not shown before as there are novice classes. Remember, the show can only be successful if there are plenty of entries.

Finally, I have to reiterate once again the nuisance caused by bonfires. We receive a number of complaints every year and some are more than justified. If a bonfire is necessary, please observe the following rules:-

1. Burn only dry combustible material (no plastic, rubber etc.).
2. Do not burn when the wind is blowing towards houses or roads.
3. Bonfires should only be for a short time.
4. Do not leave a bonfire unattended or leave it to smoulder.

Site supervisors will be asked to monitor this activity and will request that bonfires are extinguished where a nuisance is caused.

Don



Recipe Corner Kindly provided by Lesley Spence

Rhubarb Cake

75g unsalted butter	3tsp ground ginger
250g light brown sugar	300g self-raising flour
200ml sour cream or crème fraîche	400g rhubarb, prepared and roughly chopped
2 medium eggs	100g caster sugar

Preheat oven to 180°C, gas mark 4.

Cream butter and brown sugar together, beat in a little cream/crème fraîche until smooth.

Beat in remaining cream/crème fraîche, eggs and 2tsp of ginger. Fold in flour, spoon mixture into a greased and lined 23in round spring form tin. Scatter rhubarb over top. Bake 1½ hours until firm to touch. Leave for 10 minutes before releasing from the tin. Gently heat the caster sugar with remaining ginger and 100ml cold water until sugar dissolves. Boil for about 5 minutes until syrup is golden brown; spoon over the cooled cake.

Keeps up to 3 days in an airtight container, in a cool place.

AND FINALLY... MORE EVENTS FOR 2008

Open Day at Frogmore Gardens

Tickets are now available for one of the highlights of this summer's gardening calendar. The Royal Frogmore Gardens, Windsor, will be open on Wednesday 4th June from 10am to 5.30pm. The Queen has granted this day to a local charity that supports unpaid family carers - Windsor & Maidenhead Crossroads. Tickets cost £4.00 and may be obtained from WAHGA trading sheds or by posting a cheque (made out to Crossroads Ltd) to Windsor & Maidenhead Crossroads, Dedworth Clinic, Smiths Lane, Windsor SL4 5PE.

Are you dancin'??

The New Year's Eve dance was a great success; it was a full house with over 120 people seeing in the new year together. This was followed by an equally enjoyable Almost-Valentine's Day dance.

Dances coming up: These are scheduled for 12th April - £9.00; 14th June - £9.00; 20th September - price tbc and 1st November- price tbc.

The ever-popular Golden Oldies Disco will be providing the music and a two-course supper is included in the ticket price. Contact either Lesley on 831863 or Doreen on 861714 for more details or to book your place.

I/We wish to book.....ticket(s) at £17.50 each for **Hatfield House, Park and West Garden** on Thursday 19th June; orticket(s) at £14.50 each for the **Park and West Garden**. I/We enclose £.....

Please make cheques payable to **WAHGA Ltd.**

Name.....Address.....
.....Tel.....

Please send to Karin Lohr, 145 St Leonards Road, Windsor SL4 3DW. For further information, phone Karin on 01753 840651.

I/We.....wish to book.....ticket(s) at £8.00 each for the Wisley visit on Wednesday 16th July.

I/We enclose £.....

Please make cheques payable to **WAHGA Ltd.**

Name.....Address.....
.....Tel.....

Please send to Karin Lohr, 145 St Leonards Road, Windsor SL4 3DW. For further information, phone Karin on 01753 840651.