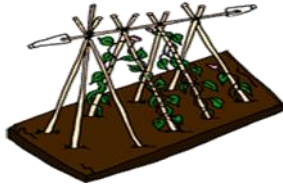


WAHGA SPRING NEWSLETTER



NEW LOOK – NEW IDEAS

Welcome to the new-look WAHGA newsletter. In this issue we've introduced two new ideas – an Ask Our Experts feature, and a Wanted and For Sale column. We've also got a dedicated email address – **newsletter@wahga.org.uk** – so you can send us any questions, items for sale, items wanted and feedback about the content of this issue.

We would like you to come up with a name for your newsletter – and there's a **£10 voucher** to be won that you can spend in either of the trading sheds. Simply drop us a line at the above email address with your suggestion, and the sender of the name chosen will win the voucher. (Note: if more than one person submits the chosen name, the winner will be drawn at random). Send your suggestions by Friday 29th April and we'll announce the winner in the next issue.

Committee News

There are two new committee members, Alan Boyce and Martin Pritchett, and there is a **vacancy for a third person**. The Committee holds a friendly but short meeting once a month. Anyone interested in joining the Committee can find out more by visiting one of the Trading Sheds or emailing Fran Hartridge, the Association Secretary, at secretary@wahga.org.uk.

Fete but no Show in 2016

For the past few years the annual WAHGA show has struggled to attract entries. Last year changes were made to encourage members to join in, but without success. So at the Annual General Meeting in January it was announced there will not be a show in 2016. For those members who wish to enter their vegetables in a show, the Windsor and Slough Chrysanthemum, Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society September show has a small number of classes for vegetables. It takes place on Tuesday 20th September at 8pm at Gardeners Hall. Visit <http://wscfpsociety.btck.co.uk/2016SeptemberShowentrydetails>.

Fete goes on

As the Fete was popular with both members and the wider community, this will continue. The date for this year's Fete is **Saturday 3rd September** at 2pm. Preparation has begun and it is hoped to feature many of the usual favourite attractions and stalls. There will also be new events taking place in the hall, with the Committee considering various options, including cookery demonstrations, a craft fair, flower-arranging demonstrations, 'Windsor Has Got Talent', baskets of produce on display and much more. The Fete requires a lot of input and effort, so if you have any ideas or are interested in helping either with the preparation and planning or on the day, please contact Kay Eglise on 01753 862742 or email keglise@aol.com.

Talk for new members

There will be a talk on Sunday 10th April at 10.30am in the Bar at Gardeners Hall for new (and new-ish) members about how to work on your allotment effectively, useful tools, and other tips. As usual, the bar will be open from noon, so why not stay for a pre-lunch drink and chat with other members?

What's in the shed?

Your membership gives you access to the WAHGA trading sheds. The two sheds are on the Maidenhead Road allotment site next to 185 Maidenhead Road, and on the Fairground allotment site next to Gardeners Hall at 213 St Leonards Road. Both are open on Sundays and Thursdays (for opening times see the website or your membership card).

Staffed by volunteers, the sheds are stocked with various products, including bird seed, composts, fertilizers, pesticides, canes, netting, fleece and black plastic at competitive prices. Seed potatoes, onion sets, vegetable seeds and flower bulbs are available in the appropriate season. Dobies supplies the seeds, which are sold at up to a 50% discount on list price. A list of the seeds available at the sheds is on the Association's website.

Help wanted in the shed

Can you help out at the **St Leonards Road shed** for one week in four, on a Sunday 10.15am-12.15pm or a Thursday 2.30pm-3.30pm? If you are interested, contact John Spence at sheds@wahga.org.uk or speak to John or Don Hartridge at the shed.

Maidenhead Road site update



From **Ginger**

The winter has been hard for all of us, so as we haven't been able to get on our own plots a few of us have been clearing recently vacated allotments. It is incredible how much 'stuff' is left behind, including a fridge, plastic bags, beer bottles, window frames, shoes, scrap metal and carpet. At one time carpet was recommended as a weed suppressant, but it needs to be lifted before weeds grow through otherwise it becomes a permanent fixture. **We don't want carpet left on plots, please folks!**

Some of the apple and pear trees have been tidied up, as they were becoming too tall. One tree was rotten to the core, with the potential of causing harm to anyone nearby. These trees should now bear bigger and better fruit, so we can all benefit. At the end of January, a hole was cut through the fence separating the Glebe from the cemetery, **allowing thieves to enter, break into ten sheds** and steal machinery. If you were one of unfortunate victims, report the matter to the police if you haven't done so already.

The rubbish that had gathered

outside the container has been removed. Our friendly neighbour has made some comments about damage to their fence, so let's all try to keep things tidy.

We collect scrap metal from the plots, which you will see in a pile behind the toilet block. It is collected regularly and profits go to Thames Valley Hospice. The car parking area is in the process of being extended. The east end has begun to be cleared and hopefully, by the spring, it will have been levelled. We are concerned about security, so can you please make sure that the gates are locked when you leave. Don't rely on someone else to do it, as they will be doing the same! Finally, don't forget to come and chat to us. We are nearly always about during the day.

Can you help?

The Conservation Volunteers in East Berkshire always welcome volunteers. If you are interested in helping with their conservation work in the area, which is usually on Thursdays, contact Buffy Harris-Jones, Project Officer, on 01189568959 or 07740899620, or email volunteer-reading@tcv.org.uk. For more details, visit www.tcv.org.uk/se/biodiversity or www.facebook.com/tcvberkshire.

Ask Our Experts

Send your gardening question to newsletter@wahga.org.uk and we'll pass it on to an expert. We'll email you the answer and one will appear in the newsletter*.

*By submitting a question to this email address, you agree to it appearing in the next issue of the WAHGA newsletter, should it be chosen.

Q How do I know if I have club root and what can I do about it?

A Signs are the wilting of plants even when the soil is moist, and knobby growths on the roots. Club root is a soil-borne fungus and cannot be got rid of. It can be suppressed by planting out larger plants from pots, adding lime to the plot (or the planting hole a few weeks before planting), feeding with calcium cyanamide (sold as Perlka) or growing resistant varieties such as Kilaxy, Kilaton (cabbage), Lodero (red cabbage), Crispus (Brussels sprouts), Clapton (cauliflower) and Monciano (calabrese). **Graham Talbot**

About our expert

Graham Talbot has a degree in horticulture and has been a lecturer in horticulture for 33 years. He is a former RHS Delphinium Committee member, and an exhibitor and judge for 35 years.

Wanted and For Sale

Here's your chance to advertise anything surplus to your needs to fellow members. Sheds, greenhouses and tools are all welcome. Send details marked 'wanted' or 'for sale' to newsletter@wahga.org.uk. Max 50 words per entry.

For Sale

2x aluminium greenhouses (8x6ft) standard type. Each has an auto opener on its roof vent. Each has most of its glass. Quite old but fully functioning. £50 each or £90 for the two. Also, assorted staging for £15. Buyer dismantles and collects from Clewer Fuel allotment. Email juliemrombaut@gmail.com.

2x sheds. One is 8x6ft and about 5 years old, fairly standard overlap larch in good condition. Comes with guttering and a few shelves (if wanted). £90 ono. Shed two is older and in average condition. £50. Buyer dismantles and collects from Clewer Fuel allotment. Email juliemrombaut@gmail.com.

Stop Press

Quiz night: Friday, 6th May.
Details: tel 01753 831863 or membership@wahga.org.uk

WAHGA is the Windsor Allotments and Home Gardens Association Ltd

Visit the website for details: www.wahga.org.uk

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