



# Growing Concerns

*the newsletter for members of Harrow in LEAF*

## Harrow In Leaf Events

Dates for your diary:

- Quiz Night – April 27<sup>th</sup>
- AGM – May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Plant Sale – May 18<sup>th</sup>
- BBQ – July 20<sup>th</sup>
- Harrow in Leaf Show – Sunday and Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August

Speak to your Hil Rep, or visit our website for further information.

## Vacancy

Our Vice-Chairman Terry Frisch has recently resigned. He was finding it difficult to attend evening meetings due to his theatre career.

If anyone is interested in taking over this key role with Harrow in LEAF then please call Judy Walker 020 8427 2772 or  
e-mail:  
info@harrowinleaf.org.uk

## Trading Huts

Keep supporting them!

Details of opening hours can be found on our website under "member groups" menu item –  
[www.harrowinleaf.org.uk](http://www.harrowinleaf.org.uk)

Cartoons by courtesy of  
Mike Strudwick Illustrations

Charity No 1108144  
e-mail: [leaf.membership@gmail.com](mailto:leaf.membership@gmail.com)  
[www.harrowinleaf.org.uk](http://www.harrowinleaf.org.uk)

Newsletter No. 25  
Spring 2013  
Editor: B Vaughan, Membership Secretary

## So, growers, what will 2013 bring?

If you thought 2012 was a challenging year weather wise, then get ready for more of the same with this cold start to 2013. Due to the melting ice caps apparently!

There were winners and losers last year, as many of you know the bees and wasps had a really hard time. I bet you did not miss the latter in your gardens. With so much rain it was too wet for the bees to collect pollen from sodden flowers. There was, in effect, a famine for bees. Many beekeepers had to feed their stocks of bees.



One of the winners was the slug. Did you notice? In particular we were infested with the Spanish Slug, a large and hungry beast. Of course the year also included a glut of snails. Please send in your favourite snail recipe for our website's recipes page!

Other winners included fungi and grass, and grass-feeding butterflies had a bumper year.

At Christmas it was amusing to see that supermarkets were apologising that they would have to sell odd-shaped vegetables in their stores. Shock, horror!

As bees in Harrow are so important to our gardens and allotments, we must grow bee-friendly plants to attract them and encourage pollination of our plants.

It is also a good idea to create breeding areas for frogs, toads and newts, that are natural predators of slugs. So try and get on top of the slugs now, start looking for their eggs as you turn over the soil and tidy around your gardens or allotments.

## Harrow in LEAF Show - August 25/26

We are pleased to announce that we are going ahead with preparations for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Horticultural Show and Fun Day. There have been changes to our Show Committee and there was doubt that the Heritage site at Headstone would be available to us, due to potential Lottery Funded work being carried out.

The "Just for Fun" category of the Queen's Jubilee proved popular last year with a variety of interesting exhibits. This year we shall continue, with the theme of "150 Years of the London Underground".

Full details are in our Harrow in LEAF 2013 Show Schedule that is now available and is also downloadable from our website.

Please contact our Show Manager on 020 8907 0508

This time why not consider entering your own exhibit? All are welcome. It's fun!

Full details on our website or contact our Entries Secretary, Judy Walker, on 020 8427 2772

## *First time exhibitors, it's your time to show!*

There is no reason to be scared of entering one of the many exhibition classes available to you in this the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the Harrow in LEAF Show. In fact the first time should be treated as getting to know your way around exhibiting.

Remember that our 179 individual Exhibit Classes are not just Flower, Vegetable or Bee related, and you do not have to belong to a Society to enter. There are many Art and Craft Classes too including cooking, painting, photography and children's Classes.

All are welcome.

So here are the 10 steps to taking part in your first ever exhibition:

1. Tell yourself that this year, 2013, you are going to "take part" and do!
2. Read carefully both of the following publications which are available from Harrow in LEAF:
  - Harrow in LEAF's Guide to Showing
  - The Harrow in LEAF Show Schedule 2013, which lists the Exhibit Classes and the Rules.
3. Decide what Class or Classes you will be entering – take a look at our website's Photo Galleries from previous year's shows to help you decide.
4. Complete the 2 page Entry Form found in the Show Schedule and our website and send in with total entrance fee(s)
5. Make sure you understand the individual criteria for the Class and start growing or creating your exhibit.
6. Deliver your entry to the Show on the Saturday p.m. or Sunday a.m.
7. Wait in anticipation for judgment, winners are announced at the prize giving ceremony.
8. Visit the Show, using your free entry tickets, to see what your fellow exhibitors have entered.
9. On the Monday collect your prize (or clap the prizewinners) and if required collect your exhibit at the end.
10. Start planning for next year's entry.....

## *Occasional gardeners required to help Wiseworks.*

A year ago, Harrow in LEAF provided a greenhouse to local organisation Wiseworks to assist with their creation of an allotment and sanctuary garden, as well as the running of Horticulture Classes.

Wiseworks is an organisation that provides a safe and supportive environment for people with mental health problems, helping them to move into work or further education. It is managed by Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust as part of Harrow Adult Mental Health Service.

They are looking for volunteers with some allotment or gardening knowledge to help out during their Horticultural Classes occasionally. They are not looking for "experts" and it does not have to be every week, it's up to you.

If you feel you could help or would like further information, please contact Harrow in LEAF on 07968 417367, or email: [info@harrowinleaf.org.uk](mailto:info@harrowinleaf.org.uk).

## *So what does LEAF stand for?*

It was interesting to learn recently that the "LEAF" in Harrow in LEAF is actually an acronym and has meaning:

**Local Environmental Agenda 21 Federation** - highlighting one of Harrow in LEAF's original objectives to support the "Agenda 21" Forum.

In 1992, the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio brought together world leaders from 179 countries to sign up to Agenda 21, an action plan for sustainable development.

More information is available from Harrow Agenda 21 at their website [www.harrowagenda21.org](http://www.harrowagenda21.org)

## The Friends of Bentley Priory Nature Reserve



This is a Harrow in LEAF member society that is an organisation for the appreciation, protection and improvement of Bentley Priory Nature Reserve, Stanmore. Did you know that there is a Deer Park in Harrow actually within this Nature Reserve?

On April 18<sup>th</sup> the Friends hold their AGM, and this year will include a talk by Jo Telfer of Harrow Bee Keepers entitled "My Fascination with Bees". All are welcome. You can register your intention to attend this AGM on-line, take a look at the this event in our Events Diary at [www.harrowinleaf.org.uk](http://www.harrowinleaf.org.uk).

The reserve is looked after by a voluntary team of wardens overseen by a management committee. Day to day maintenance is carried out by volunteers. Constant work is necessary to maintain the complex mix of habitats: they must cut back scrub that would otherwise encroach on the grass, and remove trees that would otherwise overwhelm the scrub. Only by maintaining the mix of vegetation will the reserve remain attractive to so many birds and invertebrates.

One of the biggest things going at the reserve in 2013 is the "Master Oak" project. City & Country, the developers of the Bentley Priory site itself, are set to help protect this ancient oak tree (picture above) by funding some fencing, under-planting and mulching to allow access but minimise further damage like that caused when fires have been lit near the trunk in recent years. The Friends are currently looking at quotes and planning activities.

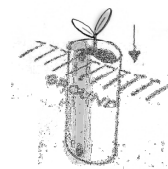
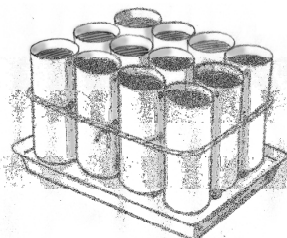
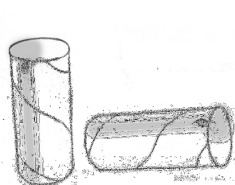
Please contact the Secretary - Linda Robinson: 020 8954 2174 or e-mail [linda\\_robinson@lineone.net](mailto:linda_robinson@lineone.net) - to find out how to support the group and join in activities during the year

### LEAF tips:

One of the unexpected pleasures of becoming an allotmenteer has been the variety of people and new friends made whilst digging over soggy clay soil or planting up. There are always a number of new friends ready to give advice and pass on their years of experience to budding growers. The old hands that just share their time and knowledge gracefully. These are people who do not sit around all day, they just get up and do and it does them good!

One useful tip to try this year is to make your own seed planters and at the same time recycle those left over cardboard tubes inside a toilet roll. Once known by children as the "do-de-doods". Start collecting them now!

Very simply, you fill them with planting compost, lay out together in a tray and plant one seed in each tube planter. Water and tend and soon your seeds will become young seedlings ready to plant. Simply choose where to plant and make a hole deep enough to hold your tube planter. Ensure that you cover all of the tube with soil as leaving the top showing can cause the cardboard tubes to dry out quickly. As the plant grows then the cardboard will decompose.



The advantage of this approach is that you do not disturb young roots whilst planting out and also it avoids pests such as carrot fly who can smell the young roots that are disturbed as you plant or thin.

Yes, you can also do this with newspaper and a nifty bit of origami (or buy an expensive machine from Kew Gardens) but why bother when they are ready made and so readily available?

### Membership Renewals 2013

Under the Harrow in LEAF constitution Annual Memberships coincide with the fiscal year, and therefore cover April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> the following year.

Accompanying this Spring Newsletter is a 2013 Membership Renewal Form for you to complete and send to the LEAF Membership Secretary with a Stamped Addressed Envelope (SAE) or hand to your local Harrow in LEAF Representative.

## Harrow in LEAF Plant Sale - May 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 2pm

As always, there will be stalls selling a wide range of ornamental, vegetable and fruit plants at amazingly low prices. You will find familiar and unusual plants for your garden and allotment. If you have a few spare plants of your own, you can bring them along and donate them to Harrow in LEAF's own stall, which raises money to help run the society.

Entrance is free and refreshments will be available.

If you would like to sell your own plants, tables cost £7.50 on the day or £6.50 if booked and paid for in advance. To book, for further information, or to offer your help on the day phone 020 8863 7558 or e-mail [info@harrowinleaf.org.uk](mailto:info@harrowinleaf.org.uk).

## Affiliated Societies' Events - March/July 2013

### MARCH:

#### HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

"So many plants, so little space"  
- With Bob Brown

- Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7.15pm

#### HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Short AGM, then a talk by Valerie Edwards "Chenies Manor and Gardens History"

- Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7.45pm

### APRIL:

#### HARROW IN LEAF

Committee Meeting

- Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm

#### HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

"You should have been here last week" with Margaret Lynch

- Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7.15pm

#### HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"The Glasshouse at Wisley, making the most of your Greenhouse"  
afternoon talk by Nick Morgan

- Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm

#### FRIENDS OF BENTLEY PRIORY NATURE RESERVE

AGM plus a talk by Jo Telfer – "My Fascination with Bees".

- Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm

### APRIL (cont.....):

#### HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Public Plant Sale

- Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm

#### HARROW IN LEAF

Quiz Night 2013

- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>, time t.b.a

### MAY:

#### HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Outdoor Vegetables through All Four Seasons" afternoon talk by Maike Windhorst, plus Plant Sale

- Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm

#### HARROW IN LEAF

Annual General Meeting.

- Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

#### HARROW IN LEAF

Annual Plant Sale.

- Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11am to 2pm

#### HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Public Plant Sale

- Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 2pm

### JUNE:

#### HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Public Plant Sale

- Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 2pm

#### MIDSUMMER GARDENS 2013

20 local gardens open for charity

- Over Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June

#### HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Visit to Heale House Gardens, near Salisbury

- Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup>

#### HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

50<sup>th</sup> Summer Show

- Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

### JULY:

#### BELMONT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Summer Show 2013

- Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup>, from 3pm to 5pm

Further details are available from the various Societies or in our Events Diary page at:

[www.harrowinleaf.org.uk](http://www.harrowinleaf.org.uk)