

Growing Concerns

the newsletter for members of Harrow in LEAF

Harrow In LEAF Events:

Dates for your diary:

- **Quiz Night – Saturday 29th March.**
7pm start.
Ticket cost £10 and includes supper. To book call 020 8863 7558
- **Annual Plant Sale SUNDAY 11th May** from 11am to 2pm.
- **AGM and Social Wednesday 14th May** 7pm start
- **Barbecue Night – Saturday 19th July.** 6pm start, food 7pm
To book call Frances now on 020 8907 0188
- **Harrow in LEAF Show – Sunday and Monday, 24th & 25th August.**

Sadly Missed:

Hedley Dunmore, who passed away in February this year, was an original and long term supporter of Harrow in LEAF. He initiated our Plant Sale and was always ready to help with maintenance of our HQ Hut. We offer our condolences to his friends and family. A donation was made to a family chosen charity.

Charity No 1108144
e-mail: leaf.membership@gmail.com
www.harrowinleaf.org.uk

Newsletter No. 27
Spring 2014
Editor: B Vaughan, Membership Secretary

Did you see Harrow in LEAF on the BBC?

That's right! A small delegation of our reps. appeared on the Beeb to support all allotmenters and parks and recreational open space users nationally.

On March 3rd 2014, the BBC 1 programme Inside Out – London had a feature called "Why are allotment holders taking on the Government to save their plots?" It was filmed in Watford, and featured the Save Farm Terrace Campaign that we feel is an important issue to us all. Land grabbing is back.....

It just so happened that on the day of filming, Harrow in LEAF arrived to hand over a donation to the campaign and Judy Walker, not in this photo, Frances Goldingay, Ron Dickens and Brian Vaughan were filmed talking to Sara Jane Treblar about their fight with Watford Council and their Mayoress.



As Ron of our Allotment Protection Group said to the campaigners "It is easy to break a twig, but not so easy to break a bunch of them stuck together".

A philosophy we should all consider for Harrow in LEAF as we go forward.

We make LEAF happen!

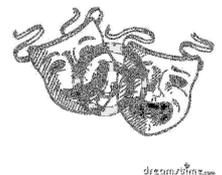
Harrow in LEAF Show - August 24/25

The Show Must Go On! Especially as it is our 10th year of presenting this event.

Despite the fact that parts of the Harrow Heritage Site may not be available due to Lottery Funded improvement works, we are going ahead with our Horticultural and Craft Show plus Family Fun Day, including the Harrow Beekeepers marquee.



This year The People's Choice will be celebrating the 450th Anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare. This is a free to enter and open class competition judged by the attending public. Alas! There will not be tasting of exhibits!



The 2014 Show Schedule, Exhibitor's Entry Forms are now available from our Entries Secretary or on our website annualshow.harrowinleaf.org.uk.

Want to run your own Stall? Then contact our Show Manager on 020 8907 0508

What about entering an exhibit? Then contact our Entries Secretary, Judy Walker on 020 8427 2772

We always need volunteers, if you can help then contact Frances Goldingay at hgoldingay@aol.com or call our Entries Secretary on the tel. number above.

Can we help you to make Harrow greener?

We are looking for ways to support community projects around the borough and invite you to apply for a small financial donation if you have something in mind. We can provide up to £500 to help your idea come to life, and bring those green shoots to fruition. In the past we've supported disabled groups, helped local schools to equip their gardening clubs, provided money for planting at care homes and in public spaces

If you think that your organisation could use some support for a horticultural project, ask about a contribution and we'll do what we can to help. If you've raised some of the money we may be able to add our contribution.

All we need to know is:

- Name and contact for the application
- Status of the group or organisation (e.g. charity, school etc.)
- Information about the project
- Total costs and amount of grant you are seeking

To tell us about your project, contact our Secretary:

Frances Goldingay via e-mail: hgoldingay@aol.com

Or write to Harrow in LEAF at: 20 Radstock Avenue
Harrow
HA3 8PE

All we ask is that you give us some feedback about the success of your project.

World War 1, the Kaiser says he "will starve Britain"

At the outbreak of the Great War on 28 July 1914, Britain was importing two thirds of her food from overseas. In order to "starve the British people into submission" it was easy for Kaiser Willhelm II to calculate that sinking food supply shipping would make Britain hungry and weak. By Autumn 1917, millions of tons of meat, sugar, flour and wheat were being sent to the bottom of the seas by the U-boats. So much so, that in The House of Commons it was said that "soon Britain would not be able to feed herself".

Britain's choice was to grow much more food or to starve.

With so many farm labourers at the Front, plus most of the working horses, a new way of manning farms was found and 84,000 disabled soldiers, 30,000 German prisoners of war and over 250,000 women were employed to grow food in the several million acres of land dug up for cultivation. However this still did not provide enough to cover for what was being lost to the U-boats.

Civilians were now the target of war.

It was civilians who were called to save themselves.



The order came from the Government "to plough up Britain" and hand land over to the people, so that they could provide for themselves. In 1917 waste ground was dug up to provide cabbages, potatoes and marrows to feed the nation. Millions of women, the elderly and children began to transform the landscapes. A new craze for "growing your own" swept the country and the press of the day called this craze "allotmentitis".

Before the war, allotments were in the hands of a few "hobbyists" and by the end of the war there were over one and a half million "allotmenters" squeezed onto any earth that could be dug up. Even the grounds of the Royal Parks and Buckingham Palace were turning out turnips!

So with the introduction of Food Rationing, mass Allotmenting and guarding of the Merchant Navy supply ships, Britain was able to avoid mass starvation. A legacy of people returning to the land and managing allotments was established, and long may it continue despite the efforts of some to reduce such providers of community and well-being.

Please support Local Trading Huts: Details of opening hours can be found on our website under "member groups" menu item

Harrow Museum Open Day - Saturday March 29th

What's special about Harrow? is the name of the Harrow Council Museum Open Day on 29th March 2014 and it's your chance to find out what's happening with the planned upgrades.

Harrow Council is the custodian of the special piece of English history that is Headstone Manor, and has created a plan to enable a sustainable future for Headstone Manor and the Harrow Museum Collection.

This Open Day will run from 10.30 am – 4.00 pm, during which the Council wish to share with Harrow residents the plans for the restoration of Headstone Manor and the creation of the new museum. There will be a free Easter egg trail for children and staff will be on hand to tell you about our 2014 programme. The architects, who are developing the plans for the new museum, will be onsite with drawings of the current proposals for review. It's an ideal opportunity for the public to contribute to the future of the Museum, and ask any questions that you might have about the project.

Harrow Council would also like to hear what you think should be in a museum about Harrow.

An online survey is also available at surveymonkey.com/s/Headstone_manor_questionnaire

A little birdie tells us that the works will also include the Museum getting a licence to sell alcohol for weddings and events. Maybe that will also apply to future Harrow in LEAF shows – Brassicas, Bees and Beers! Very nice!

Just Google - "unwanted fruit London"

Does the sight of wasted food bother you? Do you hate to see fruit rotting around trees? If so, then you may wish to consider doing something about it for Harrow.

Our Harrow in LEAF Rep. H Shorter of Greenhill, Central Harrow recently spotted an initiative that someone may be interested in following up on. The umbrella name for this initiative is "Abundance", and is basically a team of volunteers that collect fruits from neglected fruit trees that will go to waste and rot. Abundance counters this waste by picking the fruit and redistributing the surplus to the community on a non-profit basis - to community cafes, nurseries, Surestarts and individuals.

Abundance Harrow is waiting to happen!

More info at www.farmgarden.org.uk or just do what the title of this article says (if you or your family use t'Internet!).

Harrow Council meeting with allotment holders

On Monday Jan 27th 2014 a meeting between Harrow's Allotment Site Reps., Harrow in LEAF Reps. and the Council was held at Harrow Civic Centre. In attendance were the Leader of the Council Susan Hall, chairing the meeting with Dave Corby and Eddie Slavin from Public Realm, Harrow Council.

It was considered a very useful meeting by all parties, as many allotment related topics were discussed including the final version of the new allotment rules for Harrow which are expected to be issued in Summer 2014. The council will also be considering changing the invoicing from "in arrears" to "current year", so look out for details on this in your next bill.

Those with internet access can read more on our "allotment strategy page" at harrowinleaf.org.uk.

LEAF Tips:

This year's weather issue was too much water! A real Growing Concern!

One solution discussed in the media is "dredging" and this applies to any drainage ditches or pipes around your own allotments or gardens etc. Make sure that they are kept clear and flowing to ease high water. Report any major blockages to Harrow Council.

This year would have shown you the water table on your ground. Why not consider raised beds or plots to protect your soil. As you can see from the attached photo from Cuckoo Hill, clearly the growing area sits above the high water line.



Membership Renewals for 2014

As a totally voluntary charity, Harrow in LEAF relies greatly on your continued support and actions. It is time again to request that you renew your Memberships for the 2014 season commencing on 1st April 2014. As usual you can renew by post and via your Harrow in LEAF representative. Membership forms are available on our website. Associated Societies, if your events are not listed below then we have not received them yet! Sorry!

Affiliated Societies' Events 2014 - April/July....

APRIL:

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Flowering Arranging Demo at the Guide HQ, rear of Grimsdyke Road Car Park

- **Thursday April 10th at 2.00pm**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Passionate about Plants – A day of talks, top speakers from 10am at Haydon School, Wiltshire Lane, Pinner, HA5 2LX

- **Saturday 12th 9am – 4pm**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Public Plant Sale Manor Farm Hall, St. Martins car park, Ruislip

- **Saturday April 19th 10am-2pm**

MAY:

HARROW IN LEAF

Committee Meeting at LEAF HQ.

- **Wednesday May 1st at 7.00pm**

HARROW IN LEAF

Annual Plant Sale at LEAF HQ, West Harrow Allotments (Large)

- **SUNDAY May 11th, 11am-2pm**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Creating a year-round border. Field End Junior School, Field End Road, HA4 9PQ.

- **Monday May 12th at 7.15pm**

MAY (cont...):

HARROW IN LEAF

AGM and Social at LEAF HQ on West Harrow Allotments (large)

- **Wednesday May 14th at 7pm**

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Growing Orchids" with Maren Talbot. at the Guide HQ, rear of Grimsdyke Road Car Park

- **Thursday May 15th at 2.30pm**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Public Plant Sale - at Manor Farm Hall, St. Martins car park, Ruislip

- **Saturday May 17th 10am-2pm**

JUNE:

HARROW RECREATION GROUND USERS ASSOC.

Harrow Concert Band, refreshments available

- **Sunday June 1st, 2.30pm-4pm**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

It's not time for bed yet! - rethinking Autumn at Field End Junior School, Field End Road, HA4 9PQ.

- **Monday June 2nd at 7.15pm**

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Coffee Morning with Plant and Book Stalls

- **Wednesday 11th, 10.30am**

JUNE (cont...):

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP.

Public Plant Sale - Manor Farm Hall, St. Martins car park, Ruislip

- **Saturday June 14th, 10am-2pm**

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Visit to Loseley Gardens, contact: Monica Gerhold on 020 8428 2431 for further details

- **Thursday June 19th**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Marcelle Maloney will open her Garden for HPSMG

For details contact Marcelle - Tel 01753 651868

- **Saturday June. 21st 2pm-4pm**

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Summer Show 2014

At the Scout HQ, Grimsdyke Road car park, Hatch End friends at the Guide and Scout Headquarters off Grimsdyke Road, Hatch End

- **Saturday June 28th from 2.00pm to 4.45pm**

JULY:

HARROW RECREATION GROUND USERS ASSOC.

Music in the Park, Refreshments available

- **Sunday July 6th, 2.30pm-4pm**