



Growing Concerns

the newsletter for members of Harrow in LEAF

Harrow In LEAF Events:

Dates for your diary:

- Barbecue Night –
Sunday 5th July.
1pm start, food 2pm
To book call Frances
now on 020 8907 0188
- Harrow in LEAF Show –
Our 11th Horticultural
and Crafts Show, as
part of the new
Headstone Village Show
Monday 31st August.
From Noon until 5pm.
- Quiz Night –
Saturday 21st November
7pm for 7.30pm start

Please support your local Trading Huts:

Belmont HS
Headstone AGA
Newton Park HS
Roxbourne HS
West Harrow AGA

Thanks to Mike Strudwick
Illustrations for occasional
drawings.

Charity No 1108144
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www.harrowinleaf.org.uk

Newsletter No. 29
late Spring 2015
Editor: B Vaughan, Membership Secretary

Harrow in LEAF - AGM update

At a well-attended AGM on 13th May the Management Committee were unanimously re-elected by attendees, reflecting the success of their leadership in 2013/14. The result of this particular election was not a shock result.

Chair - Sue Green, Vice-Chair - Elizabeth Lawley, Secretary - Frances Goldingay and Treasurer - Judy Walker. Judy Earl continues as Trustee.

Sue reported that in 2014 we had run successful Plant Sale, Quiz Night, BBQ, the 10th Harrow in LEAF Show, as well as supporting local horticultural projects and "buying a brick" for the Heath Robinson Museum to be located within Pinner Memorial Park.

Following the AGM an evening of refreshments and chatting took place in the open air outside our green Headquarters.

A new danger reaches Harrow.

The Allium LEAF Miner has arrived in our allotments – time to guard your leeks!



In 2014, for the first year ever we believe, the leek crops at Cuckoo Hill Allotments were devastated by this pest, not to be confused with the Leek Moth. We understand that allotments in Ickenham had suffered the same fate.

According to the Royal Horticultural Society "The allium LEAF miner was first detected in Britain in 2002, since when it has spread in the Midlands and has also been found in south east England. The larvae bore into the stems and bulbs of leeks, onions, chives and garlic with devastating consequences. Affected plants often develop secondary infections and rot".

At present there are no commercially available pesticides to deal with them.

The RHS recommend protective covering in March-April and October-November and ensure you practice crop rotation.

Be warned.

Can we continue to help you to make Harrow Greener?

We are continually looking for ways to support community horticultural projects around the borough and invite you to apply for a small financial donation if you have something in mind for your allotment, park user group, resident association or other group. We can provide up to £500 to help your idea come to life, and bring those green shoots to fruition.

Frances would like to hear from you – e-mail your request/plans to at hgoldingay@aol.com

or write to Harrow in LEAF, 20 Radstock Avenue, Harrow, HA3 8PE

The biggest independent Plant Sale in Harrow.

As a regular event on the Harrow in LEAF calendar our Annual Plant Sale is a very enjoyable and successful event. If you have never attended then we recommend that next year you come along and buy bargain plants and take time to have a good chat over a nice cuppa and cake al fresco. Freshly made rolls also available!



On May 16th 2015 the sun shone brightly and with 24 tables of various ornamental, vegetable and fruit plants we lay claim to the biggest independent Plant Sale in Harrow run entirely by our volunteer members too numerous to mention here. Our Chief Organiser, Diana Dolman, is to be congratulated on the effort she makes each year to both ensure that tables are hired, visitors visit and her team of *volunteers make the Plant Sale happen!*

A full list of our volunteers is on our website together with more photographs.

How many watering cans do you actually own?

In December 2014 we were approached by Uxbridge University to take part in a survey regarding the future of watering cans.

Some of our members met with Industrial Product Designer, Thibault Milesi, and spent a couple of hours discussing various watering solutions.

It was interesting to think about an everyday gardening tool and how many issues are involved and how many different solutions already exist.

During this conversation we all realised that we own several watering cans and the most owned was about 11 stored at home and at the allotment! Go on count yours.

Our information will be fed back to a major garden supplier for future product design.



Nice wellies?

New affiliated member - Seeds of Italy, Harrow

Seeds of Italy are a Harrow based company that supplies the Franchi seed range plus other products with an Italian origin.

They believe in local horticulture and have been long term supporters of the Harrow in LEAF Show, so we are pleased that they have now become our latest Affiliated Member for 2015/16.

As well as being a seed supplier, Director Paolo Arrigo is running entertaining and educational events at their premises in Phoenix Business Park, Rosslyn Crescent, HA1 2SP. We hope you will attend an event or two.

Details of all their Products and Events are on their website: seedsofitaly.com

Can You Dig It? Yes we did!

On a chilly eve in March 2015, Harrow in LEAF members attended one of the first events of this year at the Seeds of Italy "theatre", HA1 2SP. Immediately we entered the business park we were carried away to Tuscany or Sicily with the sight of flickering candles leading up to the terrazzo and entrance.



We were there for the homecoming of our own Jo Stephenson (Greenhill Allotments) bringing her Allotment Comedy Show to Harrow. Together with fellow London allotmenteer and comic Dan Woods they are the "Can You Dig It?" comedy duo. They tour the country singing songs about growing veg - all inspired by her real-life experiences of having an allotment in Harrow.

On arrival to a warm Italian welcome and the sound of live accordion music we were seated at our own round tables and soon a glass of Prosecco arrived. Friendly chats with neighbouring tables confirmed that no one really knew what to expect in the next hour! Surreal?

On to the stage bounded Jo, followed by Dan, and whoosh! off we went for an hour or so of very amusing songs (some censored!) about horticulture and of course life on an allotment. We did not realise how funny allotmenteeing could be and to see Dan make a musical instrument out of a couple of vegetables before our eyes was very entertaining! Lots of energy and a solo Morris Dance thrown in too, we all agreed it was a unique and thoroughly enjoyable show! How do you get the song "Who is John Innes, and why is he in my compost?" out of your head?

Well done to Jo and to Seeds of Italy for providing the venue and staging (actually the back drop to their Chelsea Flower Show stage). We recommend you catch "Can You Dig it?" in the future.

Membership Renewals for 2015/16

As a totally voluntary charity, Harrow in LEAF relies greatly on your continued support and involvement

This newsletter is slightly later in the year than normal as we had so much to tell you and wanted latest info on Harrow in LEAF activities and our 11th Horticultural and Craft Show to be included.

More ways to join or renew your membership - as of mid-May 2015 it is now possible to renew your membership on-line via PayPal or Debit/Credit Card and thanks to those who have already used this service. It is working!

If you are not an internet user then renewal by post is always available and a Membership Form is included with your issue of Growing Concerns.

Please renew now for 2015/16 by post, via your Harrow in LEAF site rep., by on-line banking or via the new PayPal, Debit or Credit Card route. Thank you on behalf of all our volunteers.

We make LEAF happen!

The Great Allotment Challenge - Harrow proudly represented.

Early last year Harrow in LEAF asked its members, on behalf of a TV Production company, if they would like to participate in Series 2 of the unexpected hit show on BBC2 – The Great Allotment Challenge.

Well, a few of you did apply apparently, and one was chosen after applying late and a speedy audition. This was Rekha Mistry, a local business woman, active Harrow in LEAF Member, allotmentee at West Harrow (large), school governor and busy Mum! Some people have “get up and go”!

You may recall some of Rekha’s experiences, such as the candelabra decorating and winning the Best in Show for her two dips. In our exclusive interview with her (available on Harrow in LEAF’s website) Rekha stated that she believes “that food and sharing food is a great way to bring people together”.

Courtesy of Rekha we can now bring you a new version of her Fresh Pea Dip that helped keep her on the show (for another week at least).

Ingredients: 300g of fresh pod peas
1 or 2 small spring onions
1 clove of garlic
1-2 tablespoons of tahini (sesame paste)
¼ tablespoon of ground cumin
1-2 tablespoons of Fresh Lime Juice
Sea salt to taste



Shell the peas, place in pan with salt, add water and bring to gentle boil for 2-3 minutes (do not overcook), drain, rinse and set aside to cool. Place 2/3rd of peas in a processor with peeled garlic, diced spring onion whites and blitz.

Take the remaining 1/3rd of peas, place in mortar and gently crush with the pestle, keeping a 'crushed' consistency.

In a bowl empty both the processed and crushed peas, add tahini, finely diced spring onion greens, lime juice, cumin and mix gently

Add salt to taste and garnish with coriander or parsley and serve with pitta bread, tacos or crudites.

Headstone Residents Association needs you!

Annual General Meeting and Open Forum

Thursday 25 June 2015 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Lower Hall, North Harrow Methodist Church
Pinner Road HA2 6EQ



Do you value your local community?

Do you want a say in planning applications?

Do you have ideas to improve local life?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above and live in Headstone North or South or in the neighbouring wards of Harrow and Pinner South then we invite you to join Headstone Residents' Association. In particular we need to elect a new Chair and Secretary. There are also roles available for anyone interested in maintaining our website and in monitoring and commenting on planning applications.

If you or anyone you know is interested, come along to our AGM, details above.

For further information or just to speak, please contact Anne on 0208 863 1215 or email hrasecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Without your support, this Association, along with its important work and long history, could be lost to the community

Harrow in LEAF at the Compost Celebration - May 31st 2015

This event was organised by The Rubbish Diet Challenge, who kindly invited us to have a table or two at their free Compost Giveaway event that was held in the car park of West Harrow Recreation Ground.

So, on a drizzly Sunday morning we unloaded our cars of plants and books and horticultural information LEAFlets and stood for several hours by a pile of hot and steaming compost. Imagine how our clothes reeked on arrival home and for days after. The compost and our marquee were provided by West London Waste Authority, and to call it compost is not quite accurate, it is in fact a rich soil-enhancer to be dug into your existing soil.

Judging by the number of people who arrived and loaded their bags, cars and wheelbarrows this is a very popular way of reusing our own brown bin waste in Harrow!

Look out for news of next year's compost event.



Headstone Village Show incorporating the Harrow in LEAF Show

This year, on Monday 31st August, from 12 noon to 5 pm, Harrow in LEAF will be presenting their 11th Horticultural and Crafts Show together with the Harrow Beekeepers. Every year lays down a new challenge for our Show Committee and volunteers actually to get a show on, and this year is no exception with developments planned at the renamed Headstone Manor & Museum site.

This year sees the launch of the Headstone Village Show of which we are an integral part, and although the Headstone Manor & Museum staff are taking on the stalls & entertainments there is still much for us to organise in a climate of changing and unknown circumstances and with only a one day show to set up.

Good news? It appears that as this is the launch of Headstone Village Show the Museum will charge an introductory entrance fee of £1.50p on the Show Day. More information on this are to follow.



A successful Harrow in LEAF Horticultural and Craft Show depends upon the number and quality of its exhibits, and for these we need you.

Did you know that we have 179 classes of exhibits?

Take a look at our Show Schedule 2015 (now on-line too) and please have a go, get involved. On our website you will also find our "Guide to Showing" LEAFlet which assists first timers considering entering an exhibit.

This year our People's Choice celebrates 150 years since the first publishing of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". Our show visitors, you, vote for this one!

Do you remember when the nation waited each week, in anticipation for the BBC program "That's Life" and the funny shaped vegetable section? Well we have brought it back in this year's Show. If you do not remember then come along to the show and see what non-EU controlled vegetables can really do!

We are also inviting different groups or allotment sites to make a free entry in our Open Challenge Cup. Get together with your growing and cooking colleagues and friends and form a team to compete with others across Harrow – with fun.

Show Contacts: Judy on 020 8427 2772 or Derek on 020 8907 0508

Affiliated Societies' Events 2015 - June - July - August

Harrow in LEAF are in early stage discussions with Harrow Libraries regarding marking National Allotments week from 10th-16th August, 2015. We may see you in your local library soon?

JUNE:

HEADSTONE ALLOTMENT AND GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

- Thursday June 18th at 7.30pm

FRIENDS OF BENTLEY PRIORY NATURE RESERVE

Flower Walk with Harrow Natural History Society –

- Friday June 19th, starts at 2pm

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Coffee morning

- Saturday June 20th 10.30am - 12.30pm

Morning Walk at Prestwick Road Meadows Local Nature Reserve, South Oxhey.

- Thursday June 25th at 10.30am

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Summer Show

West Harrow Allotments (Large)

- Saturday June 27th, 2.00pm – 4.30pm

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Walk - Stanmore Country Park for Summer Butterflies and Flowers.

- Saturday June 27th, meet at the Dennis Lane Car Park at 11.00 am.

JULY:

HARROW IN LEAF

Committee Meeting at Harrow in LEAF HQ on West Harrow Allotments (large)

- Wednesday July 1st at 7pm

BELMONT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Summer Show

- Saturday July 4th, open to public 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Morning Walk Roxbourne Rough Nature Reserve, Roxbourne Park (and possibly Newton Farm Ecology Park)

- Saturday July 4th, Meet at Rayners Lane Tube Station at 10.30 am.

HARROW IN LEAF

Summer Barbeque at Harrow in LEAF HQ on West Harrow Allotments (large)

- Sunday July 5th at 1.00pm

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Coach Outing to Borde Hill Gardens

- Tuesday July 7th

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wood Farm Walk for wildlife and views

- Thursday July 9th meet at 10.30 am in the car park on Wood Lane, Stanmore

JULY (cont...)

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Walk - Grasses, Rushes and Sedges and other wildlife at Pear Wood

- Saturday July 11th, meet at 10.30 am at the Wood Lane entrance to Pear Wood

FRIENDS OF BENTLEY PRIORY NATURE RESERVE

Friends Committee Meeting, members welcome.

- Wednesday July 15th, 8.00pm - 10.00pm

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Evening Walk – Canons Park

- Thursday July 19th, meet at the entrance in Howberry Road at 7.30 pm.

Walk - Butterfly World, St Albans for Butterflies and Flowers.

- Thursday July 23rd, meet at 10.30 am at the entrance in Miriam Lane off Noke Lane. Admission should be £5 for a group.

AUGUST:

NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS WEEK

Events and shows will be happening all over the UK and maybe Harrow.

- Monday 10th until 16th August