



# Growing Concerns

*the newsletter for members of Harrow in LEAF*

## Harrow In LEAF Events:

Dates for your diary:

- **Barbecue Night – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.**  
6pm start, food 7pm  
To book call Frances now on 020 8907 0188
- **Harrow in LEAF Show – Our 10<sup>th</sup> Horticultural and Family Fun Day Sunday and Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August.**  
from Noon until 5pm.

## ***A thank you from our Show Committee:***

This year we are supported once again by Brian Cox Estate Agents, Harrow.

We thank their Director, Daniel Southgate, for their support with the Show Schedule, newsletters and promotion of the show via estate agent boards.

## ***Trading Huts:***

Please support your local trading huts and horticultural societies.

Additional information and photos on articles can usually be found on our website.

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Editor: B Vaughan, Membership Secretary

## *Letter from our new Chair - Sue Green*

Hello Everyone, I'm Sue Green, the new chair of Harrow in LEAF - when I say new I'm 'pre-used' really as I was Chair many years ago and I'd like to say how comfortable it is to be back!

Firstly I'd like to thank Gordon Cox for 'keeping it real' while I've been gone and to the committee who have been doing a sterling job!

Our first priority is to replace the ailing HQ and we'll hopefully achieve that with the aid of some grants to give us a brand spanking new building for federation members to use for their events. We're arranging to have a charity box inside Waitrose at the South Harrow and Harrow Weald shops so keep hold of those green (appropriate) tokens if you're not doing all your shopping at Lidl.

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Show at the Harrow Heritage Museum on 24/25<sup>th</sup> August is a challenge this year due to Big Lottery funded renovations, which have restricted facilities on the site. However, we're getting lots of stall enquiries and the band is booked so we only have the weather to worry about now!

Our BBQ on 2<sup>nd</sup> August at the HQ is always a really nice evening and it'll be an opportunity for me to meet with new members and groups so I hope you'll join us then?

In the meantime I'd like to leave you with one of my gardening tips - when weeding, the best way to tell if you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it - If it comes out of the ground easily - it's a valuable plant!

See you soon,

Sue Green

## *Save Farm Terrace - their day in court!*

At the end of June 2014, the Harrow in LEAF committee welcomed a delegation from Watford's Farm Terrace Campaign to discuss allotment protection and to make a donation to help with legal fees in their stand for "all allotments".

To remind everyone, the Save Farm Terrace campaign is not just a local Watford issue it really is a national issue. The rate of closure of allotments at this time in the UK is alarming!

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July their case was heard at the High Court, Westminster. The court room was packed with allotment supporters and outside a demo was held with people dressed for the occasion carrying tools and vegetables and a scarecrow of Eric Pickles! We expect a decision soon.



Sue Green hands over a cheque to Bob Wakeling

The case appears to hinge on whether the Government made the right decision about a Health Campus and Housing Complex, based on the information they were provided by Watford's Council and Mayoress. It has now come to light that 20% of the planned space will be for a car park for Watford Football Club!!!!

## Can we help you to make Harrow greener?

We are happy to report that as part of our initiative we have provided financial support to three horticultural projects in Harrow run entirely by local volunteers.

Our committee selected the following 3 projects to help so far:

- Ted Bamford and his campaign to bring flowers back to Pinner shopping centre. See photograph.
- A Stanmore Group, spokesperson Rex Holmes, tidying up a corner in Stanmore with wood chips to reduce weeds.
- Welldon Activity Group to build raised beds at Newton Park allotments which their disabled clients can use.



We look forward to receiving feedback on progress of these projects.

To tell us about your potential project, contact our Secretary: Frances Goldingay via e-mail: [hgoldingay@aol.com](mailto:hgoldingay@aol.com)

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

## William Shakespeare, agriculturist and tax dodger!

William was born 450 years ago in 1564 and in our Show this year we celebrate this fact in our People's Choice exhibits.

Will was the son of John Shakespeare, a respected agriculturist and dealer in Stratford upon Avon, and so during his life would have grown up and become very familiar with the world of plants and sodbusters.

His plays and poetry are full of references to gardens and flowers and are oft used to symbolise human emotions or political actions. He would have had a great knowledge and interest in the land, gardening and associated plants.

In fact, on retirement from London and play writing, he returned home to take over the family agriculture business and it is said he became a "ruthless businessman and tax dodger" who stored grain at a time of famine to maximise his profits.



### The Gardener's Speech

Act III, Scene 4 from *Richard II* by William Shakespeare (1597)

**Gardener.** Go, bind thou up yon dangling apricocks,  
Which, like unruly children, make their sire  
Stoop with oppression of their prodigal weight:  
Give some supportance to the bending twigs.  
Go thou, and like an executioner,  
Cut off the heads of too fast growing sprays,  
That look too lofty in our commonwealth:  
All must be even in our government.  
You thus employ'd, I will go root away  
The noisome weeds, which without profit suck  
The soil's fertility from wholesome flowers.

It is likely that Will used *The Gardener's Labyrinth* (London 1577) to design his Knott Garden at his retirement home New Place, Stratford which together with Anne Hathaway's Cottage have interesting gardens to visit.

**Shakespeare Gardens** became very popular from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onwards and are gardens that use and cultivate all the plants mentioned in Will's plays and sonnets and are usually open to public visits. Many are in the USA though!

*"What's in a name? That which we call a rose, By any other name would smell as sweet."*

## Hello to our two newest Associate Societies :

Harrow in LEAF is very pleased that Harrow Natural History Society and Harrow Friends of the Earth have elected to become group members in 2014.

**The Harrow Natural History Society** was formed in 1970 with the aim of fostering interest in natural history and related subjects with particular emphasis on the flora and fauna of sites within the London Borough of Harrow. Members are active in preservation and conservation of wildlife, particularly of the Harrow Green Belt and other areas of interest and beauty within the borough.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month from September to April at the Blackwell Hall, Uxbridge Road, near All Saints Church. During the winter months meetings include illustrated talks by visiting specialist speakers and discussions and talks by members of their own Society. The Society also organises walks and visits to places of natural history interest, both local and further afield, with at least one outing every month throughout the year.

For more information contact Margaret Huitson (Secretary) tel: 0208 8632077 or visit: [harrownaturalhistory.org.uk](http://harrownaturalhistory.org.uk)

**Harrow Friends of the Earth** have also joined us and we welcome them to our family of associate societies.

## Wiseacre Grand Opening on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

On the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 a garden party was held at Wiseworks, the mental health charity on Marlborough Hill, to officially open their renovated Wiseacre site following an award of Big Lottery funding.

Harrow in LEAF were represented at this opening by Diana Dolman who reports:

*"The team at Wiseworks have transformed the overgrown and rubbish-strewn site into a beautiful garden, Wiseacre. The horticultural team, Melinda Wright and John Heath, are to be congratulated. They and all those who put in so much are justifiably proud of the results of a tremendous amount of hard work. There is a pond and attractive flower beds, places to sit, and a thriving vegetable plot with raised beds, which is producing wonderful crops. At the opening there was an exhibition of very high quality photographs of plants, taken by clients, as well as pictures of the development of the site. The garden was opened by the mayor in the presence of staff, clients, past clients and volunteers, many of whom are past clients. They are always looking for more volunteers to help."*

## Welcome to my site - Greenhill allotments visit

This is the first of an occasional article focusing on a particular allotment site in the Harrow area with a view to highlight a little history, allotmenters, interesting produce and any ideas that we can share with our Harrow in LEAF members.

In June I was very kindly invited by Helen Shorter, our HiL Rep., to the Greenhill Allotment Site situated between Grange Road and Richards Close HA1 2PP. Helen has held an allotment here for 30 years and knows the site well.

In 1974 the site was reduced by 50% to allow for the building of sheltered accommodation leaving about 54 plots, although Helen believes it has reduced further owing to waterlogging of some plots.

Walking round, the allotmenters were, as expected, very friendly and keen to share their experiences. I tasted white currants for the first time and marvelled at engineer John's space age hut in the middle that was powered by the sun!

I learnt a lot from "Jocki" Mitrovic about his passion for grafting fruits and roses which he has done for many years. He grows 4 kinds of figs – from his homeland Croatia, from Turkey and Portugal but his recommendation is Cyprus figs. He made grafting sound very easy - so to get good quality crops it is worth a go!



Helen on her plot at Greenhill Allotments

Also on site that day was Jo Stephenson, our 2013 Best Floral Art prize winner! Jo is a journalist and a comedienne, who occasionally performs her allotment orientated show "Can you dig it?" around the country. Jo uses a couple of bath tubs filled with compost to grow good and straight carrots and parsnips, and loves artichoke. We discussed her attempts to "force" rhubarb with an inherited terracotta pot, but she decided an upturned plastic bin was best. Forced rhubarb is much more tender and sweet.

Thank you to everyone for a pleasant day. Further info and photos will be on our website. So who's next?

*Affiliated Societies' Events 2014 - August - October...*

**AUGUST:**

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Walk - Heather and the wildlife of Bluebell Heath, Stanmore. Meet in the car park at 2 pm.

- **Saturday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.00pm**

HARROW IN LEAF

BBQ Night at LEAF HQ on West Harrow Allotments (large)

- **Saturday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6pm**

HARROW RECREATION GROUND USERS

Music in the Park

- **Sunday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2.30pm – 4pm**

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Walk - The spiders of Stanmore Common. Meet in the car park at 2 pm.

- **Saturday Aug 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Evening Walk - Canons Park. Meet at the entrance in Howberry Road at 7.30 pm.

- **Saturday Aug 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

HARROW IN LEAF

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

- **Wednesday Aug 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

HARROW IN LEAF

10th Annual Horticultural Show and Family Fun Day

- **August Bank Holiday Sun 24<sup>th</sup> & Mon 25<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5pm**

**AUGUST (Cont.):**

BELMONT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN SHOW - In St Anselm's Church, Uppingham Avenue, Stanmore.

- **Saturday Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 3pm - 5pm**

**SEPTEMBER:**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Something for Everyone - At Field End Junior School, Field End Road, HA4 9PQ.

- **Monday Sept 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.15pm**

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Evening Walk - Creatures of the Night. Meet in Stanmore Common Car Park.

- **Thursday Sept 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

NEWTON PARK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Autumn Show 2014 – at the Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club, Rayners Lane. Free entry.

- **Saturday Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm**

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Walk - Fungi and anything else at Stanmore Common. Meet in the Car Park.

- **Saturday Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

HARROW RECREATION GROUND USERS ASSOC.

Fun Day, entrance free, refreshments available

- **Sunday Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm-4pm**

**SEPTEMBER (Cont.):**

HARROW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Talk – Roxbourne Rough at Blackwell Hall, Uxbridge Road, HA3 6DQ

- **Monday Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm**

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN SHOW - Scout HQ, Grimsdyke Road car park, Hatch End. Free entry.

- **Saturday Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2pm - 4.45 pm**

HARROW RECREATION GROUND USERS ASSOC.

Jazz Band – entrance free, refreshments available

- **Sunday Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 2.30pm-4pm**

**OCTOBER:**

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

“Ornamental Grasses” talk at the Free Church Hall, Rowlands Avenue, Hatch End.

- **Thursday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm**

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP

Myddleton Gardens Today - At Field End Junior School, Field End Road, HA4 9PQ.

- **Monday Oct 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.15pm**

HATCH END HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Quiz Supper at the Scout HQ, rear of Grimsdyke Road Car Park

Contact Mo Wilson on 020 8428 6830 for further details

- **Saturday Oct 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm**

**Also coming up:** Harrow Natural History Society – Moth Evening on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August, Hardy Plant Society Middlesex Group, talks on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Hatch End Horticultural Society talk on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November and Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association do Tree Dressing on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December.