Horsenden Allotments and Gardens Association

*Behind the Scout Hut, adjacent to 415 Whitton Avenue East Open Sundays 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon*

*Email: greenfordhaaga@gmail.com. Website: greenfordhaaga.wordpress.com*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY 22ND MAY 2016**

**MEMBERS GARDEN CENTRE, 12.00 NOON**

The AGM will be held on Sunday 22nd May 2016 at the Members Garden Centre at 12.00 noon. We would welcome all members to attend to hear reports on events over the past year and to elect officers for this year. Help is always required to run the Association. The existing Committee officers are not getting any younger and we need new younger, willing active horses to volunteer to help run the Association. Accounts will be available at the meeting.

*Bob Axbey, Secretary, 020 8900 0048*

**H.A.A.G.A. SPRING SHOW**

**SATURDAY, 9TH APRIL 2016**

**ALL HALLOWS CHURCH HALL, ELTON AVENUE, GREENFORD**

With 2 weeks to go until the Show, there are plenty of daffodils in bloom at the moment, despite the recent chilly weather. Whether there will be any left by the time of the Show remains to be seen, but hopefully by then there will be tulips and blossoms around. Have a look around your garden or allotment and see what you can enter; classes in the Show cover daffodils, cut flowers, pot plants, floral art, domestic, handicrafts and wine and there are special categories for young people who are under 14 at the time of the Show. Don’t forget that the intermediate Daffodil classes, 35 – 41, have been included to encourage those not familiar with the Daffodil classifications to have a go.

The classes counting towards the Harry Greenway Trophy this year are as follows:

- **Class 9** Narcissi – 1 bloom, perianth other than yellow (division 2)
- **Class 47** Tulips, any variety or varieties, growing in a pot or bowl
- **Class 87** An article of handicraft not listed in the schedule.

Details of how to enter are in the Show Schedule, copies of which are available at the Members Garden Centre. **Entries for the Spring Show must be sent to me, Pam Essex, or Colin Lathwell, by 8pm on the Thursday before the Show.** If you do not have an entry form, use the facsimile on back page. For those who want to just come and see, the Show is held in All Halloows Church Hall, Elton Avenue, and will be open to the public at 3.00 pm. Admission is free and there will be a raffle, refreshments and there are usually items for sale such as plants and handicrafts. Please come along and support HAAGA!
SHOW LEAFLETS
As has been done for the past few years, leaflets will be delivered in the area a few days before the Show. I am hoping that the usual volunteers will be available this year (unless they advise they are not), but additional volunteers are always welcome – please contact me if you would like to help with leaflet distribution, or if you would like to display a poster (either A4 or A3 size).

Pam Essex, 020 8903 2361

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A CLASS, OR CLASSES, AT THE SPRING SHOW?
For just £1 you could sponsor a class of your choice at the Spring Show.
A card will be placed on the Show Table:-

“THIS CLASS SPONSORED BY”
Your name

If you wish to remain anonymous, then the card will be marked as “A.N. Other. If you are not sure about which class, then just leave it to the Show Secretary! Several people sponsored classes at the shows last year, which many people thought added further interest to the show and the exhibits. Please give your sponsorship requests to any Committee Member, as early as possible before the show. Saturday morning, the day of the Show, would be fine too! Thank you.

Eddie Weston, Chairman, 020 8902 4777

BEDDING PLANT SALE – CRAFT FAIR AND ALLOTMENT NEWS
IT’S SPRING... and that time of year when things start to pick up at our three Horsenden Allotment sites. As well as the usual preparing of beds and the start of planting - we’ve had our first volunteer morning of the year earlier in March where we started at Whitton Drive site. We’re creating a general seating area for plot holders and toilet facilities - which is long overdue for a site of that size. We are hoping it will encourage plot holders to get to know each other more but also interest new people in the fun of growing your own. If you are considering it, there are still a few plots available.

We have installed a new composting toilet at our Whitton Place site. This will enable us to bring younger and older groups to take part in our Community Garden. It will also allow us to hold more social events there. Talking of which, in March was our first coffee morning of the year. See Rajni’s report for next date. They are a great way to meet new local neighbours, are free, open to all and the only criteria is that you enjoy a good natter over a cuppa and a biscuit!

We have another event planned for this Spring, A PLANT SALE AND CRAFT FAIR ON SATURDAY 14TH MAY. There will be a variety of quality bedding plants available and local talented ‘crafters’ will be having stalls to sell their wares. The HAAGA Members Garden Centre will be open as well (so you could check that out and see the type of things we sell year round). Bring your HAAGA 2016 membership card with you as you need to show this in order to purchase plants. If you have not renewed your membership yet you can do this on the day – it is only £3 for yearly membership.  WE MUST EMPHASISE THAT AS THE SITE WILL BE VERY BUSY WITH MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE – CARS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN ON THAT DAY. The day should make for some great browsing and a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours! It will be held at our Whitton Place site, which is behind the Scout Hut, next to 415 Whitton Avenue East. We look forward to seeing you there!

Do get in touch if you are interested in having a table to sell your craft wares – there is no table fee but perhaps you could consider a donation towards the HAAGA funds.

Milly Mills, email milly_allotment@outlook.com
Brenda Moger, Newsletter Editor, 020 8723 6842

For details of the above events and any others we may be having in the future, or you want to contact us you can check out our website https://greenfordhaaga.wordpress.com/
We have a good quantity of composts and fertilizers for you members to purchase along with the bedding plants. Don’t forget to buy some slug pellets as well – you will need them if wet weather persists.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**
We have 153 members which consist of 7 life members and 4 new members. We still have 101 members from last year that have yet to renew. We now have 65 plot holders.

**Newsletter delivery:**
9 by post and 40 by email, the rest by the road stewards or collected from the hut.

We had our first coffee morning of the year. While it was a little cold out, we managed to stay warm in the pergola with the help of the patio heater. It was nice seeing so many members for tea and cakes. We are looking forward to the warmer weather and the longer days. Hope to see more of you at our next coffee morning Tuesday 12th April 10am-12 midday.

*Rajni Jarrett, Membership Secretary*

**WANTED, MOTOR MECHANIC.**
We have been given 2 petrol engine Rotovators and a small Mantis Tiller, by Mrs Lorna Churn, wife of the late Nigel Churn, a member of H.A.A.G.A. for many years. All are in working order, but need to be checked over by someone who has a working knowledge of petrol engines to ensure their safe working before we can start hiring them out to members particularly, allotment holders. It is envisaged that these machines will be let out to members for periods of one week, supplying their own petrol, also, being responsible for any damage or discrepancies on return. The machines should also be returned in a clean state. i.e. In the same condition as you would expect, when collected. It is envisaged that a small charge will be made for the hire and a deposit paid, refundable on return of the equipment in good condition. If you feel that you can help then please contact Joe Mangar, Plots Manager, 07746757913 or Eddie Weston Chairman 020 8902 4777.

**VEGETABLE SEEDS.**
We have available at the Members Garden Centre, a collection of seeds most of which are 99p or less. i.e. Pea Terrain, a new pea which is claimed to have a high resistance to mildew, and sets two pods per flower. Runner Bean, Scarlet Empire. French Bean, Dulcina. Lettuce, Buttercrunch, Broad Bean, Sterio, and many more @ 75p packet. If you are planning to grow Beetroot then sow Boltardy, (I have had my allotment for 44 years and tried most and recommend Boltardy as best for our soil.) Available at the Members Garden Centre @ 25% off list price. Buy with confidence!!

**Topical Tips.**
Alium (Onion) Leaf Mite. This bug lays its eggs on Onions during March & April. To avoid attack delay planting out Onion Sets and Seedlings until late April. Last year I sowed sets on 28th April and harvested a good crop, end August, while all around me onion crops were devastated. Parsnips, Have you been saving cardboard centres from toilet rolls? They are ideal for sowing Parsnip seeds, which are notorious for failure when sown directly into the ground. Sowing in Tubes. I put a square of newspaper under the bottom of the tube to help with filling with seed compost almost to the top. Standing the tubes in a seed box you can get around 20 tubes all neatly wedged in. I sow 4 seeds in each tube and cover with compost and water lightly. Cover with plastic and exclude light. Germination takes place some 10 –12 days later. With germination try to have the ground ready for planting out. This should be done as soon as possible and certainly BEFORE roots emerge from the bottom of the tube. Grow on in the ground as normal and thin out to one seedling per tube when plants have reached handling size. If the roots appear at the bottom of the tube before planting out you will have Parsnips with multiple roots. Chitting larger seeds such as Courgettes, Cucumbers, Squash and Pumpkin is always worth it in my book. Chitting is done by taking a plant pot saucer, lining it with a layer of kitchen towel, wetting it, tip out surplus water, Lay seeds flat on the paper, cover with clingfilm, nice and tight, exclude light, keep in a warmish part of the kitchen, checking on day three for signs of growth.
The growing part which comes out of the seed is ROOT! Transplant into a pot for growing on, making a small hole place the root in, pushing the compost lightly around it, leaving the top of the seed just visible on the surface from which the green shoot will emerge and grow on. Pumpkins, a good tip is to lightly sandpaper the edges of the seed to aid germination. What I like about this system of chitting is that you can calculate and control just how many plants you want to grow. No waste!! Wishing every one Happy and successful Gardening.

Eddie Weston, Chairman, 020 8902 4777

Entry forms must reach one of the following addresses not later than 8 pm of the Thursday prior to the appropriate show – if late, telephone your entry through. Separate entry forms please where more than one member of a family exhibits.

Mr. C. Lathwell
18 Robin Hood Way
Greenford UB6 7QN
020 8902 8756
Mrs. P. Essex
2 Rosehill Gardens
Greenford UB6 OLB
020 8903 2361

Spring / Summer / Autumn (delete as appropriate) Show

Year: ........................................ (insert year)

I wish to enter the following classes marked X

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