

GRAFHAM COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT
&
GARDENING ASSOCIATION
News Letter 08/09



Welcome to the first newsletter of the GCAGA.

WE NEED YOU to HELP US.....

Over the past few months we have been searching for a suitable plot of land, hopefully within the village boundaries, for a community allotment.

As many of the older villagers will know Grafham had a couple of allotments that over time become residential area with houses on them.

We now have 51 villagers in Grafham and Ellington that would like to see land be made available for us to grow our own vegetable and plants.

In 2008 the Greater London Authority outlined the many benefits to working on an allotment:-

'helps community spirit and offers an opportunity to meet people from all walks of life'

'giving your mind something positive to focus on'

'a chance for children to learn where food comes from'

'A de-stressor'

For those of you that have joined the association we are starting to work on a discounted seed scheme, discounted plants and even the group hire of heavy gardening equipment.

If you are interested in the group hire of a Hollow Tining machine this autumn please contact Simon on simon.c.platts@btinternet.com

We would like your help and support to identify an area that would be suitable to be purchased or leased for a community allotment.

Any helpful ideas please contact Simon at simon.c.platts@btinternet.com

GARDENING TIPS:

Prune summer flowering shrubs to shape and ensure that you remove dead or diseased branches.

Water daily, preferably in the evening to reduce evaporation, especially your containers and hanging baskets in sheltered positions as they may not get enough from the rain.

To encourage the fruits to grow and ripen pick out the growing shoots of your tomato plants in the middle of the month.

Take cuttings from shrubby herbs and tender perennials.

Are your peas ready? Take a larger pod and pop open check the size of the peas. The pod should be firm and green when ready- discard any that are yellow or wilted to encourage growth.

We are always looking for contributions please email or post your gardening tips to:

Barb_2_nyg@hotmail.com/14 Inhams Way

Recipe of the Month

Summer Vegetable Soup (Serves 4)

150gm Shelled peas (approx 300gm unshelled)
150gm podded broad beans (approx 300gm unpodded)
1 litre good vegetable stock (home-made is best)
150gm green beans (sliced 2cm length)
1 bunch of each mint, coriander flat leaf parsley roughly chopped
2 spring onions finely sliced
juice of half a lemon
salt + freshly ground pepper to taste

Heat the stock season well with salt and ground pepper, add vegetable and simmer gently for 3 – 4 minutes until tender. Remove from heat. Add herbs lemon juice and spring onion. Serve piping hot with Pitta Crisps

Pitta Crisps

3 white pitta bread
extra virgin olive oil
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cut pitta bread into 2cm wide diagonal strips. Open each slice to form 2 pieces and arrange on a baking sheet. Sprinkle with olive oil season to taste and bake in oven at 220 C (gas mark 6) for 15 minutes until crisp all over

Recipe taken from 'Grow your own August 2009'

Again any recipe suggestions would be gratefully received at:

Barb_2_nyg@hotmail.com/14 Inhams Way

What's On?

As an association we plan to become proactive within the community and to raise funds to help us provide gardening focused services and facilities for our members. To start us off down this road we have a few ideas that we need some help to assist with organising or run.

- A competition for village children and Spaldwick School children to design a logo for the GCA&GA
- A family disco in October half term
- Providing home-made soup and jacket potatoes at Grafham Fireworks (being negotiated)
- Leaflet Drop
- Gorilla Gardening
- Vegetable hanging baskets
- Harvest festival produce
- Forge links with Save All Saints association
- 2010 Calendar
- All interested in this project showing solidarity at the next PC meeting

If you would be willing to help us out with any of the above ideas please contact Simon or Clint on Simon.c.platts@btinternet.com or j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.com

Quiz Corner

Gardener's word search

G	R	E	E	N	H	O	U	S	E
T	E	L	B	A	T	E	G	E	V
T	K	R	Z	G	F	R	U	I	T
U	A	A	A	S	L	H	N	S	I
B	L	D	T	N	D	E	N	T	S
R	E	I	O	R	I	A	J	O	G
E	Y	S	X	H	E	U	L	M	U
T	W	H	U	B	P	E	M	A	L
A	L	L	O	T	M	E	N	T	S
W	O	S	E	E	D	S	E	O	H

**ALLOTMENTS
BEANS
FORK
FRUIT
GERANIUM
GREENHOUSE
HOE
KALE
RADISH**

**SALAD
SEEDS
SOW
SLUGS
TREE
VEGETABLE
VINE
WATER BUTT**



Food for Thought

Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity. ~*Lindley Karstens, noproblemgarden.com*

You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt. ~*Author Unknown*

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant. ~*Author Unknown*

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful: they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul." - *Luther Burbank, botanist 1849–1926*

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on services you would like us to provide, events you would like to see us organize please contact Simon at simon.c.platts@btinternet.com

GCAGA Committee Members are:-

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