

## ***The Plotholder***

***bi-monthly newsletter of***

***Worthing Allotments and Gardens Association (WAGA)***

***Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Vegetable Society***

**2015 issue 4 August**

**The annual show is on Saturday 22nd August, 1p.m. – 4.30 p.m.**, at Oak Grove College, The Boulevard, BN13 1JX. Entrance free to members, with free parking on site. Come and enjoy the exhibits of flowers, fruit and vegetables, sale of home grown produce, garden trail, children's play area, stalls and refreshments. There are **special sections for novices and for children** so don't be shy - **make this the year you take part.**

### **Shop news**

The West Tarring shop now sells **windbreak**, one metre wide and only £1.50 per metre. If it proves popular we will consider selling it on other sites too.

**Honey** actually produced on site is also available, at £6 for a 1lb jar, so you can enjoy organic produce and support your local bee keepers.



On the final page of this issue you will see a **questionnaire** designed to help us understand our customers better and make sure we are stocking the right items. Please take a few moments to fill it in and feel free to let us know what you think.

Of course, as usual, we are always looking for **more help** to keep them open. A small number of people put in a lot of hours so if you could spare a couple of hours from time to time to give them a much needed break we'd love to hear from you. If we can't arrange enough cover there may have to be days when we close. You can drop in any time to talk about what is involved or ring Janet Robins on 01903 266522; [Janetrobins05@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Janetrobins05@yahoo.co.uk).

The World Health Organisation has decided that glyphosphate is 'probably' carcinogenic and, as a result, France has banned the use of **Roundup**, which contains it. At the moment, it is still legal to sell Roundup in the UK and our shops have it in stock, but if you wish to use it you should be aware of the following:

1) All weed killers are dangerous if used incorrectly so READ THE LABEL before you use it.

2) Never spray in windy weather.

3) Never wash your hands in the water trough afterwards but always wash them under a tap, and wash your face too if you have been caught in the mist.

If you wish to know more, there is a balanced article here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/apr/21/glyphosate-probably-carcinogenic-pesticide-why-cities-use-it>

And here is the government website on pesticides:

<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/user-areas/garden-home>.

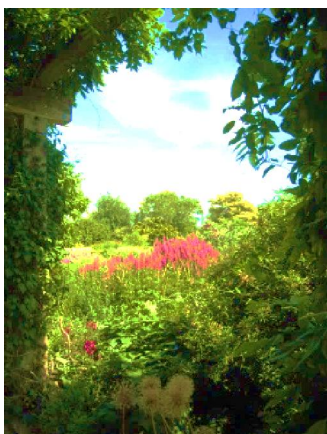
With this information in mind, we shall continue to sell it until existing stocks run out. If you wish to discuss it, or the use of weed killer in general, why not tune in to our Facebook page (see below)

**Could you mind a stall in our annual show (Saturday 22nd August 4.30 p.m)?**

We have stalls selling plants, produce, tools, white elephants, cakes etc. It is better to work in shifts to share the load so if you can help, even for an hour or so, we'd be glad to hear from you. Helpers to set up and take down the tables are always welcome to. *If you can help, please get in touch with Jack Powis, 38 The Boulevard, Worthing, BN13 1LB. 01903 243216; jackpowis@hotmail.co.uk*



## Social events



### *Report on trip to Kings Seeds from Margot Hollingdale:*

Thank you to Janet Robins for visiting Kings Seeds as part of her orientation into the role of Trading Secretary and for recognising the potential for a very interesting and inspiring tour of the warehouse. Thank you to our Social Secretary, Tony Payne, for organising an excellent day out to Essex and RHS Hyde Hall and to Overland Coaches and their driver, Clive, who took the hassle out of travelling.

EW King founded the business in 1888 when standards of practice were poorly regulated but he believed in offering quality, value and building up of a good reputation. The Company still holds this ethos today. Managing Director, Les Day, and Purchasing Manager, Andrew Tokley, guided us around and we soon learned that Kings Seeds never fail and if gardeners have any problems then it is their own fault! Some fail to read instructions on the packet and others store seed badly.

Keep seed in a cool dry place. Sealed in an airtight container in the fridge is fine but not the greenhouse shelf. Kings Seeds are happy to answer any queries and give advice. Most complaints are associated with germination.

Ideally, use a seed compost for better moisture retention, but don't over water because seeds will rot. Don't use stagnant water from the water butt in early spring – it will either be too cold or contain pathogens which may damage young seedlings. Likewise, lettuce won't germinate when temperatures are in 70's. There are various tricks of the trade like placing cucumber seeds in moist kitchen towel for 24 hours before placing in seed compost. If planting several seeds in a flower pot (perhaps Sweet peas) don't try to separate them later because the fine root systems will get damaged. Don't sow seed too deeply – the covering only needs to be the same depth as the diameter of the seed itself.

Kings still grow around 20% of seed themselves but most seed is bought in from around the world. Qualified technicians test samples from each batch for germination rate, vigour of growth and purity of result. If of acceptable quality, seeds are given tracing codes and stored at 50°F dry storage before packaging. Kings supply seed to commercial growers as well as by mail order and when we buy their products in our WAGA stores we are guaranteed quality of a high standard and at a very good price – cheaper seed may be found at other outlets but you don't always get what is illustrated on the packet.

Kings specialise in a wide range of sweet peas and maintain pure stocks on the farm, which we visited before seeing the area where seeds are cleaned and sorted. Some of the machines are antique but still do the job exceptionally well. The Spiral is the size of a garden obelisk and three volunteers managed to work it very efficiently to separate a mixed



batch of seed. So, thank you to Les and Andrew at Kings for inspiring us in such an entertaining way. Janet will soon be ordering new stock for the stores so if there is anything that Kings supply that you would like to try let the stores know and it may help Janet consider the balance of new stock.

### *Report from Tony Payne*

We then travelled on to RHS Hyde Hall, where we were met by one of the managers. With stickers on chests, everyone went in different directions to explore this beautiful garden. There was an abundance of shrubberies and herbaceous borders, all linked with large paths. The grass looked fantastic and they used their own organic fertiliser. One of the views was a spectacular moving Sycamore Seed Sculpture.



There were lakes and ponds and a very interesting Australian Gravelled Garden with many different plants, which were full of bees. If anyone has a boring front garden with gravel they should visit Hyde Hall and see what can be done.



There was a large vegetable garden, where four trainees looked after their own section and everything was flourishing.

It was good to go somewhere different, so if you have any ideas for future trips please let me know. Thank you for your support. Tony.

Next event is a **breakfast at West Tarring on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August**. Starts 9.30 until it is all gone, price £2.50. Vegetarians catered for.

If you'd like a breakfast or BBQ on your own site then don't be shy. Let us know if you want any help or wholesale prices from our Association supplier.



**There is a white elephant stall at the annual show (Saturday 22nd August, 1p.m. – 4.30 p.m).** If you can contribute anything please contact Celia Powis on 01903 243216.

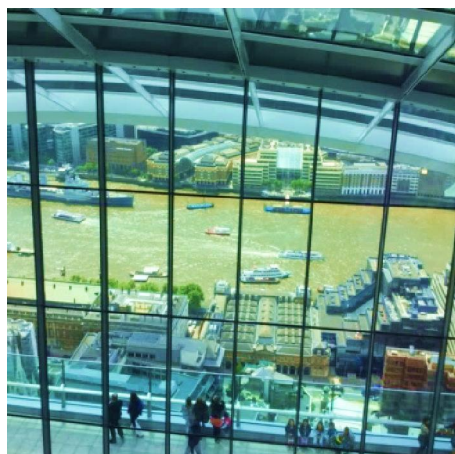
We also sell on **excess produce** so if you have anything you can't eat or store yourself, contact Tony Payne on 872909

## Gardens to visit

By way of a change, try The Sky Garden? It's 32 floors up in the middle of the city at 20 Fenchurch St. and the views across London to the hills beyond are spectacular.

The gardens were designed by award-winning *Gillespies* and feature drought resistant Mediterranean and South African species.

You need to book in advance on



<http://skygarden.london/sky-garden>

and remember to take some identity with a photograph (e.g. passport or driving licence) but entry is free and that is £25 less than The Shard across the river. On the way back to Victoria you can stroll through Borough Market and past The Golden Hind, The Clink, The Angel (one of oldest pubs in London) Tate Modern (with silver birch and giant pansies) and Festival Hall (among the best free toilets in London).



The council's **Allotment Strategy** is being updated after their consultants amended its figures to reflect WAM's analysis. It will now show an under-provision of allotment in our area.

**How about baking a cake for our annual show (Saturday 22nd August).** If you are on holiday that day, you can still contribute by sending a cake in your place, which we will shared with grateful paying customers. Contact Judy Kara on 01903 202618; [lushrestaurant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lushrestaurant@yahoo.co.uk)



*Dab (in nifty titfer) with the Combe Allotment Team and Rob Smith, winner of the Big Allotment Challenge (holding rake).*

Dab Alden attended the first **Toby Buckland's Garden Festival at Bowood** to represent WAGA as part of the #SaveOurAllotments campaign team.

TV horticulturalist Mr Buckland said: "The festival is to bring people and plants together and have a party atmosphere. The estate here is the extra member of the team. What we are about is producing a great festival in the most beautiful locations with a strong emphasis on local growers."

Three groups were represented at the event @SaveFarmTerrace from Watford; @FightforCoombe from Wotton under Edge, Glos and the Blue Finger Alliance from Bristol.

The focus of the event was a talk on the preservation of soil and allotments introduced by Toby Buckland and attended by James Wong, Rob Smith (Big allotment challenge) and Jim Buttress.

The stall attracted a lot of interest from the public who were surprised that even statutory allotments could be disposed of so easily.

Dab is also taking over our **website and Facebook page** and has started a Facebook 'closed group' so members can chat to each other on line. For example, how do you use up spare courgettes, what is the major difference between organic and non-organic slug pellets, what can be done to help the declining hedgehog population, what can we learn from Norwegian and Autistic gardeners, is Roundup safe and what do you do with a gherkin that won't fit the jar?

Drop in to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WAGA1/> and join the conversation to share news, tips, recipes, opinions.



*Pic by Diane Collins*

## Plants to grow and free stuff

Everyone loves a fresh strawberry and nobody should ever have to pay for their plants. At this time of the year they put out so many runners that someone near you is bound to have some to spare, even if they are a bit vague about the variety. For West Tarring tenants

there will probably be a produce and plant swap on the second Saturday of each month (see Plot 90 and the notice board for details). Other sites are encouraged to try it too - so far they always seem to pay off.

**Before you go, how about helping to set up for our annual show?**

**We need helpers to lay it out on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August, from 6pm and to clear up afterwards on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>.** If you can help, contact Jack Powis, 38 The Boulevard, Worthing, BN13 1LB. 01903 243216; [jackpowis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jackpowis@hotmail.co.uk)



**Sussex Manures - Delivered Manure**

Puckamuck is a completely natural and organically sourced horse manure without bulking ingredients such as green waste or other profit-making additives found in some spoil-enhancing composts. It is shredded and fully aged and can be used straight away.

**Ten x 60 litre sacks**, £65.00 (local 10 mile delivery from Findon West Sussex) additional bags £5.50 each.

**Twenty x 60 litre sacks**, £130.00 (20 mile delivery limit from Findon West Sussex) extra bags £5.50 each.

**Builders bag** are great value - Each bag contains at least eighteen 60 litre sacks worth of Puckamuck. Call for multiple order discount. Local delivery £65.00 (up to 35 miles from Findon). Minimum of 2 bags over 10 miles.

**Transit tipper lorry load.** 2.5 cubic metres of Puckamuck for £126.00 inclusive of VAT and local delivery. (This quantity equates to 50 wheelbarrow loads and £550 worth of 60L Puckamuck sacks).

We also deliver Puckamuck locally in **12 Cubic Metre trailers** for £493.20 and a fresher version of untreated horse manure in 12 cubic metre trailers for £282 inclusive of VAT and delivery.

Please call or e-mail for quotes and delivery prices outside of our local area - Mathew Kennard 01903 877689 or 07899 676166S visit [www.puckamuck.co.uk](http://www.puckamuck.co.uk) or mail: [info@puckamuck.co.uk](mailto:info@puckamuck.co.uk)

Advertising rates for this newsletter include printed (b/w) and on-line (colour) versions; whole page £30, half page £20, quarter £10, eighth £5. Web site space may also be negotiated for suitable products and services. Contact [plotholder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:plotholder@hotmail.co.uk) 01903 529084

**How many times have we said this before? **Thieves** are at work again - strawberries, redcurrants and runners have all been taken already. Please remember to **LOCK THE GATE PROPERLY**. In particular, the LINCETT GATE at Tarring has been open a lot recently. Please close it to help keep thieves at bay.**

#### **Questionnaire for WAGA shops.**

- Which shop do you use the most?
- How often do you use this shop?
- What do you regularly buy in the shop?
- Do you think the prices are good value?
- Have you been made to feel welcome at the shop?
- Do you ever just go to the shop for a chat?

We are thinking of selling a small range of flower seeds at all 3 shops. Which of the following would you buy?

Wallflowers    sunflowers    sweetpeas    sweet william

- Do you have any other suggestions?
- 
- If we sold herb seeds would you buy them?
- Which herb seeds would you be interested in?
- Would you like to see more organic products in the shop you use? If so, which ones?
- Would you like to help out at your local shop on a regular or occasional basis?

**Please return to staff in the shop or directly to Janet Robins via WT shop or 41, Rackham Road, BN13 1LW. Thank you for your responses.**