



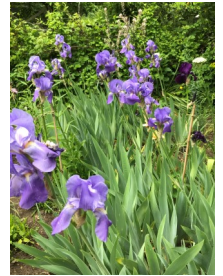
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEYBRIDGE ALLOTMENT
HOLDERS' AND GARDENER' ASSOCIATION (WAHGA)
(Registered Charity No. 1189633)

June 2023

WAHGA NEWS

Blooming Marvellous!

After a cold and wet April and early May, warm weather has finally arrived, with flowers and veggies suddenly taking off on the allotments and in pots and gardens around Weybridge. It's great to see so many plots being dug over, bean poles being put up, tomatoes being planted out and nets put in place to protect fruit, brassicas and sweet-corn!



2023 Sunflower Growing Competition



We are delighted that so many of you have taken up the challenge this year's Sunflower Growing Competition. We hope that you are all feeding, watering and possibly talking to your sunflowers to encourage them to grow! A reminder that the two competition categories are: a) Tallest sunflower and b) Widest flowerhead. Entries will be judged on the weekend of 12/13 August. 55 kits were given out late April/early May (32 junior members and 23 adults), so we're expecting to see sunflowers popping up all over. The bees will love it, too!

Plot-judging 2023

Thinking ahead WAHGA hopes to offer Churchfields allotment plot-holders the opportunity to put their plot forward for judging. As last year, we hope to have Julie Jacob, an instructor at Kew Gardens and Merrist Wood, and also a keen allotment gardener, to assess and judge the submitted plots. The judging criteria will be published as dates are firmed up—likely to be towards the end of July/early August. So, if you fancy putting your plot in for judging, with a chance to win a prize, look out for an email in a few weeks asking for entries.



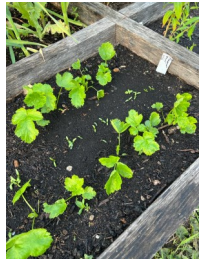
Dates for the Diary

Saturday 17 June 2023 10am—4pm	Green Elmbridge Sustainability Fair — Please visit us at WAHGA's Compost Clinic	Walton River House Barn
Saturday 24 June 2023	Weybridge Festival Community Fair— Volunteers needed for WAHGA stall	Churchfields Recreation Ground
End July/Early Aug 2023 Exact date—TBC	Plot-judging for submitted plots—Look out for an email with judging criteria	Churchfields Allotments
Sunday 6 or 13 Aug 2023 Exact date —TBC	WAHGA Summer Picnic	Churchfields Allotments
12 / 13 August 2023	Sunflower Competition Judging	Churchfields Allotments

WAHGA Gardening Tips

Little and Often—Successional Sowing

One of the keys to a long-cropping season and a variety of crops is successional seed-sowing. It's often tempting to open a packet of seeds such as lettuce, beetroot, carrots or pak-choi and empty all of it in one long row, or in one large pot. But if you sow a third of the seeds now, a third in 2 weeks' time and a third 2 weeks after that, you can extend the season and enjoy the harvest over a longer period. It takes a bit of planning, but is well worth it!



Watering— Lots and not so often



When it comes to watering, it's better to give plants a really good soaking infrequently, than a sprinkle every day or two. Whilst seedlings are establishing themselves, use a rose on the watering can, but once plants have grown deeper roots you can ditch the rose, reduce the frequency of watering and increase the amount each time. This will keep the deeper soil moist and encourage the roots to go down further, providing better anchorage and allowing them to find more nutrients. And in this heat, it also reduces the amount lost to evaporation.

WAHGA Strimmers Available to Borrow at Weekends

One of the many benefits of WAHGA membership is the availability of electric battery-operated strimmers to borrow e.g. to trim the grass on paths between plots. These are available at weekends at no charge. Simply send an email with the requested time and day/date to: info@weybridgeallotments.org.uk and we'll sort it!

Did You know? Cane vs. beet sugar

For a few years now, I've been making marmalade and jam. Although I don't eat most of what I make, I find it therapeutic to cut up the citrus peel (by hand) and stir the pot to find that magical setting point. On one jam-making occasion I got to think about the "food miles" involved in getting the cane sugar from the Caribbean vs. the beet sugar from just up the road in East Anglia. And have you ever thought how amazing it is that you can get the same product from two totally different plants, grown in such different climatic conditions? The history is quite fascinating too with sugar production from beet being promoted by Napoleon after a blockade of French trade links limited the supply of cane sugar to Europe. If you have a "Did you know?" story or question—do let us know!

WAHGA Membership Benefits—McLaren Fine Foods

With over 300 WAHGA members, based around Weybridge, we've been able to negotiate some good member discounts for shopping in the local area and further afield. One of our members was recently reminded of this when he popped out from the allotment via the Church gate to get some lunch at McLaren Fine Foods, based at 78 Church Street. Not only did he find delicious snacks but when he happened to mention he was at the allotments, he was offered the 10% member discount. McLaren is primarily a fine foods farm shop offering a variety of locally produced and seasonal foods along with wine, craft beers, local gin, great coffee and yummy freshly baked goods. Make sure you check out the doughnuts!!!

All discounts for WAHGA members are listed on our website at: <https://www.weybridgeallotments.org.uk/discounts>

WAHGA—Contact Us

We are always keen to hear from members, please email: info@weybridgeallotments.org.uk