



# JUNGLE NEWS

May 2005



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## SEEDY SATURDAY!

### Jungle Open Day SEEDS & PLANTS DAY

May 7th 2.00-4.00 at 100 Mary St.

- We will be selling **packets of seed** for late spring planting along with **pumpkin, tomato, sweetcorn, basil** and other plants on 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- We will be planting sunflowers with Jungle children as part of a tallest plant contest, so come along and have some fun.

### JUNGLE EVENTS

at 100 Mary Street

Thursdays, 9.45 am: **Women's Gardening Group:** contact Ruth on 0121 446 4798 or [ruth@jngl.org.uk](mailto:ruth@jngl.org.uk) Come along and help establish the women's garden. **Open to all women.**

Tuesdays, 10am-3pm: **Drop-in Centre:** Sales, chat, tips, talk, ideas, gossip, meet other gardeners.

Tuesdays, 12-1pm: **Shared Lunch:** Bring some vegetarian food, share a meal and chat about growing food.

First Thursday in the month 10am-1pm: **Women's Drop-in,** with a simple shared vegetarian lunch at 12 pm. **NEXT ONE 5th May.**

First Saturday in the month 2-4 pm: **Open Day**

Tuesday 7 June 7-9pm: **Jungle Management Committee meeting.** 100 Mary St.

Friday 9 September 7pm: **GROWING WORDS: Jungle Oasis Theatre Event, City Centre.** Please keep your creative pieces of work relating to Jungle's activities coming in for this event. Poems, songs, pictures, dances, conceptual sculptures!

### CARNIVAL IS COMING

We are now starting to make plans for our float for this year's carnival. If you would like to **get involved** as a volunteer then we'd love to hear from you. We need people on our stall too, T-shirts with our logo on and a banner. Any other ideas are very welcome. Come along to our **open day** on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** to make a start.

### YOUR GARDEN IN MAY

More info from [www.hdra.org.uk](http://www.hdra.org.uk)

- ☑ Many **seeds** can be sown straight into the ground at this time of year. Try **beetroots, cabbage, carrots, salad onions, lettuce, peas, broad beans, radishes** and **turnips**.
- ☑ Always protect **carrots** from root flies by covering with fleece until the plants are big enough to have grass clippings put round them to stop the flies digging into the ground. The flies do not fly high off the ground, so a barrier around your crop may be an easier solution. Some people say that onions grown nearby put the flies off. Don't leave thinned out carrots lying around because the flies smell these and find your crop.
- ☑ Keep sowing **French beans, runner beans, sweetcorn, courgettes** and **marrows** indoors to shorten the growing time of these plants. Sow the same seeds outside at the same time to make sure that your vegetables won't all be ready at the same time.
- ☑ When planting out young **leeks**, wait until the seedlings (young plants) are 10cm tall, make a hole in the ground with a cane and place the leek into this without filling back up with soil. Water the newly planted seedlings gently just after planting.
- ☑ **Cabbages, Brussels sprouts, broccoli** and **calabrese** should have a square of old underlay fitted around their base when planted out, to stop cabbage root fly from reaching their roots.
- ☑ Plant young **marrow** and **courgette** plants into the ground. Allow lots of space around each plant and put compost onto the soil before planting because these plants need a lot of water and this will help hold it for them.
- ☑ Pinch the tops off **broad beans** after flowering to discourage black fly.
- ☑ Fruit trees in blossom must be protected with fleece if a frost is expected.
- ☑ Keep checking for pests and diseases. The earlier they are caught the less of a problem they will cause. We can help you identify pests and diseases if you bring examples or photos in.

## BUTTER BEAN SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

- ▶ 400g butter beans
- ▶ 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- ▶ tablespoon olive oil
- ▶ salt & pepper to taste
- ▶ chopped parsley (generous amount)

### METHOD

Soak the beans overnight.

In a saucepan, cover the beans with water and bring to the boil. Simmer the beans gently till cooked.

From time to time you might need to add hot water to prevent the beans from drying.

Drain the beans after they have cooked. Mix the beans with the other ingredients and serve cold.

## April Open Day Review

What do you mean you missed it??? Here's a brief idea of what we did.

What is the best way to clean a rusty spade? A piece of brick and some water! This was one of the priceless tips given to Jungle members at our last open day. We were joined by expert organic gardener Oz who gave practical demonstrations of knife and tool sharpening as well as some tips on which tools to buy.

Oz's top three tools to buy:

1. **A Fork** - can be used as a rake too
2. **A Spade** - has many uses in the garden
3. **A Good Set of Secateurs** - cheap ones don't work

## Help protect Balsall Heath's Beautiful Trees!

Jungle members are organizing a walk round Balsall Heath to map **notable trees** and get **preservation orders** put on them. Oz from the Martineau Gardens has offered to help; he has a wealth of knowledge that he wants to share. If you would like to take part then please contact Jungle on 0121 4464798 or [all@jnjl.org.uk](mailto:all@jnjl.org.uk)

## Are You Reading This?

The Jungle newsletter comes out 11 times a year. Do you enjoy reading yours? If you would like to continue to receive your copy we need to hear from you. If you joined over **one year** ago, either phone, e-mail, drop in or send a postcard. We know that a lot of members have moved house or lost touch with us for some reason. Please let us know that you still want the newsletter. Membership is free to Balsall Heathans but we do ask for a donation to cover costs.



## FAIR TRADE?

The Windwards, a group of tiny islands in the Caribbean is being threatened with economic destruction because the U.S.A is trying to stop preferential trade agreements being given to them by Britain. On these islands bananas are produced on small farms in hilly areas, usually owned and worked by families. The small plots often lie on steep ground unsuitable for growing anything else. This small scale farming is under threat from the so called "dollar" producers usually associated with large U.S multinationals who have no concern for "fair trade" or environmental destruction. To find out more visit [www.bananalink.org.uk](http://www.bananalink.org.uk). Remember also that your purse is powerful! Try to avoid buying "dollar" bananas like Del Monte, Chiquita, Dole or Fyffe's. Instead look for Geest or bananas carrying the Fairtrade logo.

If you are interested in buying organic fair trade bananas regularly please get in touch with [ruth@jnjl.org.uk](mailto:ruth@jnjl.org.uk) If enough people are interested we may be able to share a box a week between us on an informal basis! You can also get Fairtrade goods through the Balsall Heath organic food co-op - go to our new website and search for Lembas.

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May: **Birmingham Organic Gardeners.** Monthly Meeting 7.15-9.30 - includes talk, library and plants/seeds for sale. Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Hall, Linden Rd, B29.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May: **Moseley Farmers' Market.** 10-3pm, Moseley Village crossroads.

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> May: **St Paul's Trust Countryside Walk.** Take a trip out to the Malvern Hills for some fresh air and exercise. Please call Martyn on 464 2552 for details.

## OUR GARDEN IN APRIL

- ❖ We have planted a row of **cordón** fruit trees at Jakeman Rd. There are **soft fruit** bushes growing beside these.
- ❖ Jakeman Rd. School children have started **tomato plants** in a grow house and potatoes on a window ledge. As well as these, there is much activity in the **outdoor vegetable garden.**
- ❖ At Tindal we have given the children a potato to take home to chit (grow sprouts) In the raised beds we have planted **broad beans, radishes, garlic, onions and beetroot.** The **rhubarb** we forced has already been eaten.
- ❖ With the **help of volunteers** we have **prepared a bed, potted up tomato plants** and started **garlic** to sell. If you have time to spare and would like to get involved in a Jungle project please come and see us at 100 Mary St. We will be able to support you and provide good opportunities to **learn** the things you want to learn about growing.

