

Hungerford Environmental Action Team July / August News

Nice lazy summer ? Not quite ... HEATers (as we have become known at the allotments) have been out and about at various events. giving away seeds and enjoying chatting to people. Just getting ready for the bike ride on Saturday so if you're free, dust your bike down and come along. The HEAT allotment plot is as usual doing much better than our home gardens and with minimum effort. The work will be in the eating so if you know of anyone who loves lettuce, send them over on a Tuesday night.

As its BBQ season my top tip this month is [Pang Valley Charcoal](#) made locally, part of a woodland regeneration/woodland skills project. Beautiful stuff, available from Howards Pet Care.

What's On

HEAT Vegetable Garden Cycling Tour Sat 23 July meet 10am Town Hall steps

Visit gardens of various styles of growing at Standen Manor, Froxfield, Old Hayward and Hungerford Newtown, cycling about 15 miles in total. Bring a picnic and make a day of it ! Call Suz 07791 155084 if any questions.

Hungerford Farmers Market this Sun 24 July 9-1 list of stalls at www.tvfm.org.uk

Cat will be cooking up a courgette dishes and no, its not ratatouille again. [A few ideas](#) to help you eat your way through all those courgettes

Secret Language of the Honey Bee Talk & Tasting Sun 24 July 3pm Croft Hall FREE HADCAF event See www.hadcaf.co.uk for details

Seasonal Supper Tues 2 Aug evening The Plume of Feathers pub Hungerford

3 course meal of local seasonal food, tickets available in advance from the pub.

Green Drinks Thurs 4 August 8pm The Plume of Feathers Hungerford

Informal drop in social event to meet others interested in the outdoors, the environment, gardening etc. First Thurs of each month.

[Southbys Allotments](#) Open Day Sat 6 Aug 12-3pm bottom of Greenham Road, Newbury (entrance close to the pub)

Beautiful allotments to ooh ahh over, BBQ, fresh allotment produce stall, tombola, home made cake stall and goodness knows what else. Its a lovely day out.

HEAT Guided Walk Sun 7 Aug Meet 10 am Town Hall steps

Social circular walk for approx 3 hours via St Cassians to Kintbury to enjoy the local countryside and its many features. As always, please check the weather forecast and dress accordingly.

HAHA / HEAT Tex Mex Style BBQ Sunday 21 Aug 2pm at Marsh Lane allotments

Plate of food £5, please bring your own drinks, tables and chairs. Anyone welcome, you don't need to have an allotment, the more the merrier ! Tony 07590 555877

HEAT Community Allotment Plot 72, Marsh Lane Allotments Tues eves 7pm

Join us growing veg on our community plot. No experience necessary, no commitment, no cost. Just turn up, bring tools if you have them. Beginner gardeners and new allotmentees welcome or just pop by for a cuppa. Suz 07791 155084.

Dates for your diary :

Hungerford Farmers Market Sun 28 Aug 9-1

HEAT Guided Walk Sunday 4 Sept Meet 10 am Town Hall steps

What's in Season Now

Aubergines, beetroot, broad beans, courgettes, mangetout, radishes, runner beans, spring onions, spinach, salad leaves, main crop potatoes, gooseberries, blackcurrants, raspberries, strawberries.

What to do in the Garden

Harvest : broad beans, main crop potatoes, salad leaves, spring onions, radishes, spinach, tomatoes, cauliflower and berries.

Sow in August : spring cabbage, radishes, spinach, turnips and winter varieties of lettuce (mizuna is my favourite and very peppery tasting) and spring onions.

Storing spuds : dig up early in the day and rinse or brush off mud. Lay out in the sun for a day to dry them. Only store the good ones as one bad one can spoil others. Hessian sacks or other natural breathable material is best. Store them in a dark dry place, checking regularly for any decay. Try planting french beans as a green manure to replace nitrogen where you've taken the spuds out - you'll also get some dinner.

Dig up garlic on a dry day. Store it hung up in a dry place.

Feed tomatoes to help cropping (comfrey in water does the trick).

Local Village Markets

Inkpen 3rd Sunday of each month 10-12.30

Hamstead Marshall 2nd Saturday of each month 10-12.30. Game, Christmas Farm meats, pastries, chutney and cake !

Marlborough 2nd Saturday of each month 9.15 - 1pm Veggies, local meat, Bedwyn bakery bread, cakes galore and a cafe.

Newbury 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month www.tvfm.org.uk

Kind regards,
Sue McKillop
HEAT
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