

# NEWSLETTER

## Issue 3 – Spring 2016



### GOINGS ON IN PARADISE

#### THE WILDLIFE POND



We have now seeded the pond area with wild flowers and Aurelia is the official caretaker of our resident Ramshorn Water Snails! More plug plants will be established here over the coming months as well as a rockery

habitat to encourage dragonflies, newts, toads and frogs.

#### NEXT DATE FOR POND PLANTINGS IS

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm – MEET AT THE POND

#### THE BUMBLEBEE BORDER

Phacelia, Foxgloves, Grasses and Borage have now been planted out specifically for our bumblebees which includes the stumpery – now surrounded by Ferns and Buddleia that will grow over time and give good ground cover – as well providing a bumblebee nesting site.



#### THE FLOWERBEDS

The flowerbeds are gradually growing and improving as they are cultivated into Year 2 although managing the ox eye daisies and mallows is an ongoing task.



Please do come along and get involved any Wednesday between 11am and midday when Sally does the maintaining.

Our flowerbeds now contain buddleia, ox eye daisies, toadflax, thyme, salvia, aquilega, honesty, feverfew, purple loosestrife,

nyger, nasturtiums, orange hawkweed, water mint, sunflower, perennial sweet pea, tree mallow, red clover, common mallow, calendula, milk thistle, cranesbill, red valerian.

All of the above are attractive to either butterflies or bees and other pollinators.

#### To be added over time :

Hebe, Scabious, Poppies, Honeysuckle, , Weigela, Penstemon, Bergamot, Dogrose, Alliums, more Salvia and Lavender.

Check out the website to keep up to date with sightings and species discovered so far in our Gardens.

#### PARADISE COMMUNITY GARDENS – WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS 2015/16

##### BIRDS

blue tit  
great tit  
long tailed tit  
willow tit  
greenfinch  
lesser spotted woodpecker  
green woodpecker  
goldcrest  
barn owl  
little owl  
jackdaw  
raven  
crow  
magpie  
chaffinch  
goldfinch  
blackbird  
robin  
nightingale  
collared dove  
wood pigeon  
starling  
house sparrow



##### AMPHIBIANS

Common Toad



##### INSECTS

emerald dragonfly  
copper dragonfly  
red eyed damselfly  
hairy shield bug  
sunfly



##### Butterflies & Moths

holly blue  
meadow brown  
painted lady  
red admiral  
cabbage white  
lime hawk moth  
mint moth



##### Bees

wild honey bee  
honey bee  
common carder bumblebee  
colletes bumblebee  
buff tailed bumblebee  
red tailed bumblebee  
early bumblebee



##### MAMMALS

hedgehog  
badger  
bat (species unknown)



#### PLANT SWAP



Do you have any plants, flowers, seedlings, herbs in your own gardens that you could donate to the Community Gardens? Any donations very gratefully received. Please see Sally about it. Thank you.

#### YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/Paradise-Community-Gardens-1067661336619180/>

Website: <http://www.paradisecommunity.wix.com/gardens>

Email: [paradisecommunitygardens@hotmail.com](mailto:paradisecommunitygardens@hotmail.com)

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### THE ORCHARD

Our orchard trees are now planted and well into establishing themselves for fruiting next year.



We have Quince, Greengage, Cherry Plum, Cobnut, Crabapple, Victoria Plum, Redcurrants, Blackcurrants, Strawberries, Raspberries and Blackberries. Aren't we lucky!!

### HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS

In order to really help pollinators, we must also provide wild habitats for them, which is what Paradise Community Gardens will be doing in their allocated Wildlife Garden area. This will be an ongoing project most likely carried out for the most part with youth volunteers as an educational activity for them although Community Members & Friends will also be invited.

#### Plants planned for this area will include:

*clover, birds-foot trefoil, various grasses, wallflowers, restharrow, cuckoo flower, honesty, teasel, nettles, ivy, violets, bluebells, dandelions, wood avens, grape hyacinth, dogrose, cowslips, honeysuckle. Knapweed, narcissus*

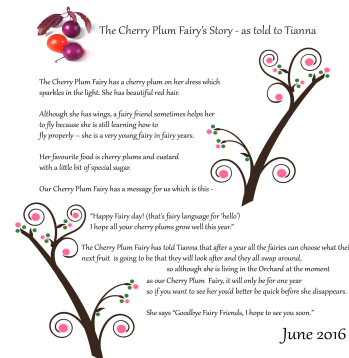
Additions to the area will also involve making a hedgehog hibernation habitat, and bug hideaways which will be added as children's activities during the Summer holidays.

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Any stories, poems, and/or pictures from Paradise children are very welcome. Tianna's story is now up on our community website.....

Send your submissions to [paradisecommunitygardens@hotmail.com](mailto:paradisecommunitygardens@hotmail.com) or see Sally @ no. 15.

TIANNA'S SUGAR PLUM FAIRY STORY can be found on our website.



### PLUG PLANTS

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July  
4pm – 5pm

Bring your littlies along to help plant out wild flowers around our pond, with Guy. Hope to see you there!

### COMMUNITY FUN DAY

September 2016  
10am to 2pm

Plans are afoot to hold a Fun Day just after the school summer holidays so that we can raise some much needed funds for our Gardens.



Details to follow as they become available.

Do you have any games, toys, gazebos, BBQ and so on and so on that you would like to contribute? Please talk to Sally. Thank you.

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### A RECIPE FOR HEDGEHOGS



If you make a little hole about the size of a CD case in your garden boundary, hedgehogs will be able to get in and out!

Try putting this out in your own garden to attract your local hoggies.....use organic if possible. Measurements only need to be rough, not exact.

- 2 parts peanuts
- 1 part sunflower seeds
- 1 part walnuts
- 1 part hazelnuts
- 1 part almonds
- 1 part vegetable suet
- 1 part dried cranberries

Grind the nuts and seeds into small pieces in a coffee or nut grinder, add the suet and dried fruit and store in a cool airtight container.

Put a sprinkling out in a flat sided dish fresh every night along with a shallow sided bowl of water.

The hoggies should start visiting between 9.30pm and 1am once they get a sniff of a lovely snack!

### GETTING BUTTERFLIES!



Put out discarded banana skins sprinkled liberally with sugar water to help butterflies stay sweet and happy.

#### TO MAKE SUGAR WATER

To 1 tea cup of boiled spring/rain water add 1 tsp. organic white cane sugar. Stir to dissolve and dribble over the banana skin/s. Place the skins somewhere safe in your garden.

### THE TO DO LIST.....



### Opportunities for Residents & Friends of Paradise Community Gardens

#### WATER CARRIERS

Now that our fruit trees and bushes have been planted out we will need the water to be regularly topped up in the water butt down in the Community Orchard. Could you perhaps twice a week trundle a couple of 5 litre sized bottles or buckets of water down there and tip them into the water butt in order to keep it topped up? Every little helps!

#### WEEDERS & SEEDERS

11am to midday

Every Wednesday during the summer months come along and join Sally in maintaining the Gardens. No experience necessary. All ages welcome

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In order to be able to apply for Grants and other assistance, we now need to establish a Committee. Please don't be scared of volunteering yourself, it won't take any of your time, but will help us enormously in securing funds for the future. Email or see Sally for details. Thank you.  
[paradisecommunitygardens@hotmail.com](mailto:paradisecommunitygardens@hotmail.com)

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