

Garden's Newsletter

St Mary's Secret Garden

MARCH 2010

EVENTS, NEWS AND FEEDBACK

The woodland area is starting to come into its own. The first arrivals are out and about...snowdrops and we are starting to see some late arrivals.. the daffodils.

Focus Group Invite

Interested in apples?

Come to our apple consumer focus group session on Thursday 18th March 5.00-7.00pm at St Mary's Secret Garden



As part of a European research project, PAN UK invite Development House staff and friends to share your views as a consumer on apple quality and production issues. Hot mulled apple juice and cider will be available, plus snacks.

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The session will last approx. 2 hours, answering a series of questions and taking part in group discussion. In return, we'll give each participant a bag of apples and 2 bottles of apple juice.

If you'd like to participate or find out more, please contact Stephanie Williamson or Nick Mole at PAN UK, 2nd floor, on: 020 7065 0916/0911 email stephaniewilliamson@pan-uk.org; or tell a member of staff at St Mary's Secret Garden.

Are you interested in finding space to grow food? Do you live within 2 miles of Spitalfields City Farm?

Spitalfields City Farm is gaining back land from Transport for London due to the disruptions from the new East London Line . We would like hear from local residents who want space to grow food and are interested in forming a growing group. The Farm is really enthusiastic about supporting and encouraging the local community to use this space as a community garden.

Project Dirt.

Is an environmental networking site which lets you share your ideas and find out about projects and community events. St Mary's Secret Garden has just joined and you can become one of our members. See www.projectdirt.com

UP AND COMING COURSES AND EVENTS

Basic organic gardening course

This course takes 6 weeks to complete and aims to give you the skills and confidence to have a healthy productive garden. The course is a mixture of practice and theory.

Every Thursday from the 22nd April - 27th May 2010 3.30pm - 6pm

Cost £120 waged and £60 receiving income support.

Educators Course

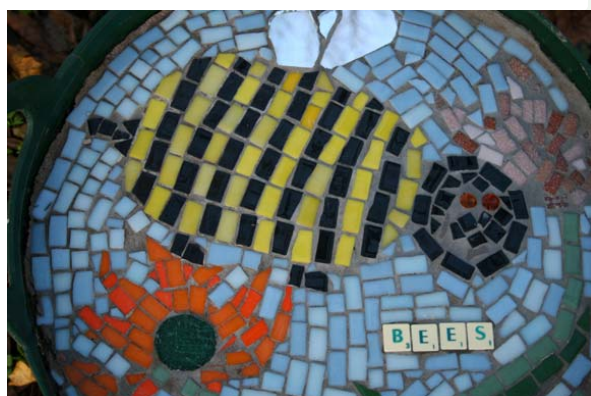
Educators Course aimed at people working with children who would like to bring growing vegetables to children in schools.

Every Monday 10th May - 21st June (no session course during the half term break) 4pm - 6.30pm

Cost £200.

To book on the courses see

www.stmaryssecretgarden.org.uk/Education.htm



Thanks to The Learning Trust we are proud to offer the following free learning days for all the family - grannies, grandads, dads, mums, aunts, uncles and their kids are invited to the following:

- **Thursday 8th April 'New Shoots' 10am till 12 midday**

You and your kid can learn about sowing seed to grow vegetables, salads, herbs and even edible flowers! You get to take away your own container of seeds to watch grow & care for.

- **Monday 19th April 'Go Wild' 10am till 12 midday**

Together you and your kid can learn about the importance of wildlife & habitats in the garden - go on a bug hunt, create a bug hotel and sow some wildflower seeds to help out honey bees, insects & birds.

- **Tuesday 20th April 'Green Growers' 3.30pm till 5.30pm**

Got no garden? No problem you and your kid can still grow healthy vegetables and salads in containers. Learn how to look after them by feeding and watering. You get to take home your container (you can either bring one in or we will supply) with vegetable and salads.

- **Saturday 1st May 'Good Grub' 11am till 12 midday**

Come & learn about harvesting vegetables and salads. Make some healthy snacks that will be good for school lunch boxes.

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Children and adults of all ages welcome. 1 adult must be accompanied by 1 child!

Herbal Cosmetics Course

We've linked up with Archway Herbal Clinic to offer this course.

Watch this space and **keep Saturday April 24th Free**. More details to follow.

SEASONAL TIPS

Hot tips this month...

Seed sowing has started on our heated mat but you could try on a warm windowsill....marigolds, sweetpeas, tomatoes, aubergine, french beans, lettuce, broccoli, brussels sprout, dill, parsley.



broccoli



dill

We've planted beetroot and carrots in toilet tubes cut in half as beetroot does not like to have its roots disturbed. Can then be transferred into outside bed which has been warmed up by being covered by a cloche.

WHAT'S FOR SALE

Hyacinths in baskets make great presents for friends or yourself! We have a wonderful supply of hyacinths very reasonably from single bulbs in a terracotta pots to baskets of 5 hyacinths for £5.

The daffodils are making there way up and out, so come and get them now and watch them grow!



VOLUNTEER

We would like to say a big thank you to Sarah Higgs for helping to create the newsletters since summer 2009. Sarah started up the newsletter template which would normally be displayed on our website with pics and well written humourous updates for you.

Sadly Sarah can no longer help us, so thank you Sarah for your time and enthusiasm for the newsletter.

This opens up an opportunity for anyone else who would like to support the staff to keep the word out there about this little secret garden. Please do contact us if you can help in any way either with the newsletter or office admin in general.

Think that's all for now!

Claudia, Paula and Catherine x

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.stmaryssecretgarden.org.uk

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