JUNGLE NEWS

March 2006

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Balsall Heath Jungle

The Annexe, 100 Mary Street, B12 9JU (near the corner of Mary Street and Edward Road)

GET READY TO ENJOY YOUR GARDEN!

JOIN US on Sat. 4 March 2-4pm

We still have things to sell which you can help you grow some food in your garden. Or just come to talk about your garden.

- **Redcurrant bushes** £5 each (bare root)
- **"Sweetheart" cherry tree** (last one) £10 (bare root)
- **"Conference" pear tree** (last one) £5
- One large **pear tree** suitable for planting as a cordon, £10.
- Packets of **vegetable seeds** (some organic)- £1. (Peas, beans, cucumber, carrot, beetroot, radish, lettuce, cabbage, calabrese, courgette, broccoli, sage, spring onion, oriental greens, swede and turnip.)
- **Organic Potatoes** - £1.50 per kilo. We still have 6 different varieties available.
- **Danu Compost** - £2 per bag
- **Lakeland Gold soil conditioner** £5 per bag
- **Woven plastic ground cover** to keep weeds off: 50p per square metre
- Strong 8 foot **Bamboo canes** 50p each

We sell the plants "bare root", which means you have to plant them in the first 2 weeks of March (before the buds open). Take them home with the roots wrapped in a bag, and protect the roots from drying out, getting warm, waterlogged, or freezing, until you can plant them.

If you can, bring along a vegetarian dish, snack or cake to share during the afternoon. We will be offering the usual services including gardening advice aimed at the organic food grower. A cup of tea and a nibble usually goes well with this sort of afternoon.

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING postponed until 1st April 1-4pm

We will be holding a special event with food on Saturday 1st April to celebrate the work which we have carried out over the past 2 years of The City Fruit Project. The funding for that project has now nearly ended. The meeting itself will run from 2-3pm. It's really important for members to come (if you live in Balsall Heath you can become a member on the day). If you can bring any food along please let us know before the day on 446 4798 – we'll provide some too.

YOUR GARDEN IN MARCH

More info from www.gardenorganic.org.uk

- ✓ **Plant bare root trees and bushes** at the ***beginning*** of March before the buds open.
- ✓ **Prune apple and pear trees if necessary** at the ***beginning*** of March before the buds open.- get advice from us or our website if you like.
- ✓ If necessary, prune **cherry and plum trees** (stone fruits) later, ***just after*** the buds open.
- ✓ **Potatoes** Buy some seed potatoes (not potatoes from the shops) and put them in trays in a cool light place ready to plant at the the end of March.
- ✓ **Get into your garden**. Enjoy yourself getting things ready for the spring.
- ✓ **Clear up. Collect and compost** all old plant materials which still cover your growing space. Prune back hedges, wild blackberry plants, bindweed and other out of control plants around your patch. Remember that these are important homes for insects and birds though, so don't remove too much.
- ✓ **Mulch instead of digging.** Cover growing spaces with overlapping cardboard or several layers of newspaper. Weigh it down with home made compost or leaf mould if you can. This will stop weeds from growing before you get round to planting the growing area up. Digging can damage soil structure and bring weed seeds onto the surface where they will grow. If you have very compacted soil then you may need to dig, but in future avoid walking on the soil by laying your garden out in beds you never stand on.
- ✓ **Have fun.** Planting should be easier if you keep the ground mulched at all times. Remember to plant small seeds into fine soils. Bigger seeds are not so fussy, and potatoes can be put onto holes in your paper or cardboard mulch and then covered with compost, leafmould, rough shreddings, etc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

of Balsall Heath Jungle will be held at 100 Mary Street at 2pm on Saturday 1 April 2006

AGENDA

1. Minutes of last year's meeting

To be agreed and matters arising.

2. Reports and accounts

To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2005 and the reports of the charity trustees and independent examiners. We will post these in advance on our website at www.jngl.org.uk

3. Independent Examiners

To appoint Independent Examiners Ltd as our independent examiners for next year.

4. Independent Examiners' remuneration

To authorise the charity trustees to set the level of the Independent Examiners' fees.

5. Election of Management Committee

Following the Management Committee meeting on 7th March 2006, we will post information on who is standing for re-election on our website. If you would like to stand for election, please phone 0121 446 4798 or email all@jngl.org.uk as soon as possible.

6. Alteration to the Constitution

Any proposed alterations to our constitution will be posted on our website as soon as possible after the management committee meeting.

7. Proposed resolutions (things the meeting has to decide)

Details will be given after the management committee meeting. If you have a proposal you want the meeting to vote on, send it to all@jngl.org.uk by 24th April 2005, or dictate it to 0121 446 4798. A revised agenda will be posted on the website on 27th April 2005.

8. Any other business

To deal with any minor matters raised at the meeting (more important things should be informed in advance as "proposed resolutions").

THANKS TO BALSALL HEATH CHURCH CENTRE, which has generously offered us a month's grace on our rent at The Annexe.

JUNGLE WOMENS GROUP

From Thursday March 16th the women's group will no longer be meeting at 100 Mary St. We are however going to carry on with the help of volunteers. The idea is to meet together regularly in each other's growing spaces and help each other out. We also hope to continue sharing great lunches and our favourite recipes. If you would like to "host" a women's group session please get in touch with ruth@jngl.org.uk Happy eating love Jungle Women xx

JUNGLE EVENTS at 100 Mary St.

Tuesday 7th March at 7pm: Management Committee meeting

Thursday 9th March 10am–2.30pm: **Women's Gardening Group**.

Tuesdays, 10am-2pm: **Jungle lunch and drop-in** will carry on for the month of March at 100 Mary Street

Saturday 1st April from 1pm: **Celebration, Annual Members Meeting, and tips on sowing.**

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

Friday 3rd March: **Critical Mass Bike Ride**. Meet at St. Phillips Cathedral to ride around the city at **6pm**. The ride is to celebrate cycling and promote human-powered vehicles as an alternative to cars. Some people come on unicycles, skateboards or roller skates.

Wednesday 15th February: **Birmingham Organic Gardeners**. 7.15-9.30pm – Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Hall, Bournville. Open to anyone. Theme: LOCALISE WEST MIDLANDS (http://www.localisewestmidlands.org.uk/)

STREET TREES ON STRATFORD ROAD

There is a rumour that some large street trees in Sparkhill, between Bakers Lane and Showell Green Lane, opposite the Antelope pub, are going to be cut down by the Council, even though they are perfectly healthy. They have large crosses painted on them. Please contact **Tony White, Planning Officer for Sparkhill, Alpha Tower, Broad Street, Birmingham. (email planning.enquiries@ birmingham.gov.uk FAO TW) or** your Councillor or MP if you are concerned about them. You can use the "Write to Them" website (www.writetothem.com) if you want to email your MP or Councillor.