

# Group newsletter

## March 2018



### Snow hits West Maldon litter pick

It was really disappointing to have this event cancelled by snow for several reasons. There is always plenty of litter to pick around this area. Many members of the public had contacted us wanting to come along. Finally, it would have been the last group event which the Town Council's Environment Officer, Jennifer Eva would have been involved with.

We will be organising another date for a litter pick in the West Maldon area. This may be on a Saturday or Sunday morning following requests from the public who work during the week and would like their children to come along.

### Goodbye to Jennifer

Jennifer has been a huge help to the Maldon in Bloom team, as well as managing the Town's open spaces, including the allotment sites. The team would like to wish her all the best for her future in Herefordshire.



### Flying the flag for Maldon in Bloom



The team will be easily recognised working around the town by their feather flag, which has been purchased by the Maldon Town Council Environment Committee. The Maldon in Bloom team are extremely grateful for this. If you have a few hours to spare, perhaps you would like to volunteer.

### Tell us your news

In future issues, we hope to have articles from our 'green' community groups about the open spaces they are caring for and their plans, as well as news from our playschools and schools as spring arrives. Please send your articles to [dorreen@ianlinton.demon.co.uk](mailto:dorreen@ianlinton.demon.co.uk)



# Maldon in Bloom launches in April

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April will be the launch morning for our local Maldon in Bloom competition. The launch will take place at Maldon Town Council offices on Market Hill between 10.00 am and 12 noon. Competition leaflets will be available on our display table.

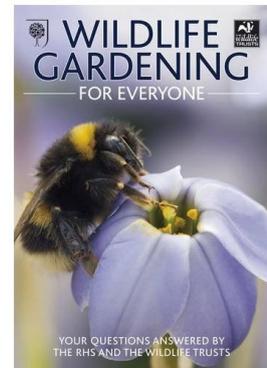
- Maldon Town Council Annual Meeting – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April starting at 7.30 pm.
- Maldon in Bloom Judging Week from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- Maldon in Bloom Presentation Evening – Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June starting at 6.30 pm.
- Anglia in Bloom Judges will be coming sometime between 5<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> July.

## Food for Nature - Maldon in Bloom theme

As you are aware, our Maldon in Bloom theme for 2018 is 'Food for nature' It is amazing how many wildlife visitors come to our gardens. They love to come and feed from hanging feeders, bird tables and on the ground, as well as balancing on plants and flowers, bushes and trees to enjoy the seeds. They even love pecking through the snow on our lawns. Different species seem to have their favourite foods and ways of feeding. They also like the treats of mild grated cheese, sliced apples and pears, bananas, grapes, raisins and oats.

A supply of rainwater is also important for small birds as they will come to drink and wash their feathers several times a day throughout the year. Did you know that most birds drink by dipping their bill in water and throwing their head back to swallow? Pigeons and doves are able to immerse their bills and drink continuously.

Water for bathing is equally important so that birds can keep their feathers in good condition. Positioning your bird bath is important as birds will only use it if they feel safe; watching them bathe is amusing as they do seem to get very excited. Creating little green patches to encourage wildlife is relatively easy as lots of plants will grow happily in containers on balconies, patios and against a wall or fence.



## Government promises a green future

Did you know about the dozens of pledges in the Government's 150 page document, 'A Green Future,' launched by the Prime Minister in January. The pledges range from taking further measures to phase out peat use in horticulture to planting 180,000 trees. They are also encouraging gardening, whether visiting gardens or working in gardens, as the perfect way to get our bodies doing all sorts of movements. Gardens enhance the health and wellbeing of those who visit them as a social and community activity. Working in them is good for our fitness - squatting, bending, digging, raking, carrying water cans, kneeling and enjoying the fresh air. It can also be an educational and healthy way of teaching National Curriculum subjects.



## University wants allotment diaries

Allotment volunteers are needed for a University of Sheffield research project. They need people to complete diaries for a year's worth of allotment activity. The data will help investigate the ways allotments are used, how people manage their crops, how often they visit their plots and their use of pesticides, fertilisers and homemade compost. Volunteers with all levels of experience, ability and style of growing are required.

[www.myharvest.org.uk/2017/12/calling-all-growers](http://www.myharvest.org.uk/2017/12/calling-all-growers) email: [mcdobson1@shef.ac.uk](mailto:mcdobson1@shef.ac.uk)

## Spring cleaning Maldon Prom drought bed

Members of the Maldon in Bloom team and their grandchildren spent some time during the half-term week tidying the bed and planting some bulbs and plants.

It was good to see that the Rosemary bushes cultivated by the students of Plume, Maldon's Community Academy and planted by the Maldon in Bloom team are thriving. This bed is a good example of a drought/sustainable garden.



## Soup lunch to raise funds for our projects

We have been offered the opportunity to receive a proportion of the profits received from the soup lunch organised by Di Rogers on Tuesday, 13th March. The profits will be shared between Maldon in Bloom, The Maldon & Dengie Stroke Support Group and Age Concern. The event will take place at Maldon Little Ship Club at the Hythe Quay between 12 – 2 pm. Minimum contribution is £4.00 with additional contributions requested for any extras.

## Visit Friary Walled Garden on 25th March

Our local Friary Walled Garden will be open for both volunteers and visitors on Sunday, 25th March from 10 am to 4 pm as part of the Essex Big Weekend. The garden is normally open free of charge to visitors on the first Sunday of every month, weather permitting. Please note it will NOT be open on 1st April, Easter Sunday. Donations are always welcome as the group is self-sufficient. Contact Linda Lister on 01621 855902 or visit the website – [www.friarywalledgarden.wordpress.com](http://www.friarywalledgarden.wordpress.com)



## Writtle College Open Day

Writtle University College will be open on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00 to 3.30. Admission is £4 and children go free. A new dry/Mediterranean garden has been designed and built by staff and students on RHS courses, together with a wide range of seasonal bedding displays, herbaceous perennial borders and a renovated Rockery. Open Day is coordinated by Level 3 Horticultural students who will be on hand to assist visitors.



## Maldon Open Gardens for Christian Aid

Maldon Open Gardens for Christian Aid has been an annual event in June for over 15 years. A wide variety of gardens both large and small open for this event. This year it is going to take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm – 6pm. This is your chance to go and explore other gardens in and around Maldon while helping some of the poorest and most disadvantaged of the world's people.

Although we have a number of gardens that open annually or biannually, I am always happy to receive offers for new gardens to open. We welcome all sizes and types of gardens.

If you think your garden has something to offer and would be happy to open it for this event, please contact me and I will arrange a visit to see the garden and discuss details. Thank you, Julia O'Mullane, Chairperson, Christian Aid in Maldon and Heybridge [juliaomullane@sky.com](mailto:juliaomullane@sky.com) 01621 331726



# Dates for your diary

## National Gardening Week

takes place during the week of Monday, 30th April to Friday, 6th May. The theme is 'Share your passion for Plants' giving groups, residents and schools the opportunity to create their own 'Passion for Plants Pot'.



## Maldon Flower Arrangement Club

The club meets at the United Reformed Church Hall, Market Hill, Maldon. Meetings start at 7.30 pm and the cost is £5 per meeting.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March Caroline Rogers – 'It's the Fashion'

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April Moira Neville – 'Second hand rose'

## Essex Wildlife Trust meeting on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March

The speaker, Dougal Urquhart, Cudmore Grove Country Park Senior Warden, will be giving a fascinating insight into the introduction and activities of the colony of red squirrels, an endangered species, now living on Mersea Island. Meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon starting at 8 pm. A donation of £2 is suggested for evening talks.



## Maldon & Heybridge Horticultural Society

United Reformed Church Hall, Market Hill—7.30 pm

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March Bella D'Arcy Reed, 'Renaissance Gardens of Rome'

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April Evening Spring Show

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May John Mead, 'Summer Baskets & Containers'

## Outdoor Classroom Day

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May is the opportunity for children to spend time in their own school grounds, visit a local park or take part in a community outdoor event.

## RHS Hyde Hall Spring Free Day

Visitors can go along to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Hyde Hall on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March. The site is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Visit [www.rhs.org.uk/hydehall](http://www.rhs.org.uk/hydehall) for full details.



## Spring Plant Fair at Hyde Hall

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April, organised by Essex Heritage. There will be specialist nurseries from across the region selling rare and unusual plants. There will also be a number of plant societies on hand for help and advice.

## RHS AGM

The RHS are holding their Annual General Meeting at Hyde Hall on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June at 2 pm.

## Beeleigh Abbey Gardens open days

Fridays – 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May

Entry costs - Adults £6.00, children 5-16 £2.50 (cash only)

10.30—4.30 - last admission 3.30

