



**Dorset Gardens Trust Schools**



**Welcome to our 7<sup>th</sup> e-newsletter**



**Do you remember in the last e-newsletter we told you about the acorns from Windsor Great Park that members of the schools committee had planted so we could distribute the seedlings to our school gardens in Dorset to commemorate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday? Well the seedlings have started to appear and so NOW is the time to let us know if you would like us to keep a seedling for your school. Please send us an email to [stonescj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stonescj@hotmail.co.uk) and we will make sure we keep a young oak tree for you.**



**This time last year we held the first of our Twilight Teachers Workshops on school gardening in Dorchester. It was a huge success and schools from other areas have asked us if we could repeat it closer to their schools. So we have. And below are the details.**

# Free Twilight Teaching Session

**Pamphill First School, Wimborne BH21 4EE**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**4.00 – 5.30 p.m.**

(Refreshments will be available from 3.45 p.m.)

## **‘School gardens: creating outdoor learning experiences’**

Part of the work of the Dorset Gardens Trust is to support and encourage school garden projects. We fund a limited number of grants each year for schools in Dorset, and also provide back-up support and advice when needed.

We ran our first school twilight session last year, and were encouraged to repeat it in a different area, to enable other teachers to take part. We hope that it will provide an opportunity for teachers to:

- a) Meet colleagues from other schools and share school gardening situations.
- b) See a presentation about the reasons for, and practicalities of developing outdoor spaces and learning areas (i.e. gardens!), and to discuss essential pre-requisites.
- c) Hear about the funding support available from the Dorset Gardens Trust.

Members of the schools group of the Dorset Gardens Trust will briefly outline some key curriculum benefits of developing school gardens, and then will share practical ideas and support available to Dorset schools. It will also be a time for teachers to meet other teachers who are developing, or wanting to develop, outdoor learning areas, and for all of us to hear about garden ideas and aspirations, whether already implemented or not!

We are grateful to Pamphill School for hosting this session.

### **To book a place:**

Please contact Margaret Clarke, [mec.ryelands@talktalk.net](mailto:mec.ryelands@talktalk.net) tel. 01202 883585 to indicate your interest, **by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February** at the latest. Please include your name, your school, the names of any others from your school who would like to attend, and the best phone contact number for us to use.

**We hope to see you there! If you have a parent or Governor who has been involved with your school garden and you think they would be interested in coming to hear more about our work, please pass on this information.**

### **Comments from last year included:**

**‘lovely to get together with other teachers for support’**

**‘SO many good ideas – thank you!’ ‘I’m going back fired with enthusiasm’. ‘Thank you – what great resources’**

## **VEGETABLES TO GROW**

Now is the time to think about what you are going to plant in your vegetable gardens. We have had an idea.....

We are including a recipe which we thought you might be able to make or get a friend to make and which you could share with the children to inspire them when they are choosing what to grow. Beetroot. A vegetable that is easy to grow and a good cropper so one of our committee has come up with her favourite recipe for Beetroot soup (great on cold days) and a lovely rich red colour and once they have tried it, we think this will encourage children to plant some beetroot seeds ready for cropping later in the year.

### **Pauli's Beetroot Soup**

4 medium beetroot

1 medium potato

1 onion

Peel, chop and sweat the diced vegetables in butter. Add 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  pints of chicken or vegetable stock and cook until tender. Liquidise until smooth. Add a good squeeze of lemon juice. Top the servings with a dollop of yogurt or a swirl of cream.

**ENJOY!**

### **PRIZE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Don't forget we always like to get your photographs and a certificate will be sent to your school for anything we publish in the newsletter.

How are your bug hotels? What else are you building to protect wildlife in your garden areas? Have you any interesting planters?

I recently saw a photo of large green water bottles being used to plant beans in them. Slice a side off the bottle, fill with compost and put in 2 seeds and then attach the bottle lengthwise to a wooden or wire fence.

## AROUND THE WEB

### NEWS FROM THE RHS

#### Free seeds

If you sign up to take part in *Greening Grey Britain*, the RHS schools campaign will send you a **free** packet of wild cornfield seeds which are all perfect plants for pollinators. If you've already signed up, your seeds will be arriving soon but in the meantime you can use their resources to plan your project.

#### Win prizes!

Share your photos on Twitter using **#GreeningGreyBritain** and **@RHSSchools** for a chance to win one of their spot prizes which we will be awarding each week throughout the year.

### AMATEUR GARDENING MAGAZINE

<http://www.amateurgardening.com>

Amateur Gardening Magazine have a super [Junior Gardeners](#) section written by Katherine Miller, who is herself involved in a local school garden. Check out their website or read her regular column in the magazine and find out more about the following:



### [How to make a grass head](#)



### [Painted pebbles](#)

Read more at <http://www.amateurgardening.com>

**Other websites which might help you are:**

[nurturestore.co.uk/school-garden-ideas](http://nurturestore.co.uk/school-garden-ideas)

as well as some great ideas they are offering a free garden journal.

Also [earthrestorationservice.org](http://earthrestorationservice.org) has lots of special offers and give help to establish tree nurseries.

That's all for now! Remember we are here to help, not just with a grant but with practical ideas and tips, so do contact your school visitor from the DGT or email [stonescj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stonescj@hotmail.co.uk)

**GOOD GARDENING FROM THE SCHOOLS TEAM AT DGT!**