



Summer Newsletter 2018

Welcome to the summer newsletter. If you have any comments about this issue of the newsletter or would like to contribute an item to the next issue please email the editor - raga@raga-leeds.org.uk.

Dear Members

One of our new plot holders David Dawson has taken on the job of up-dating and managing our website, thank you David. Do have a look at www.raga-leeds.org.uk If you have any photos or suggestions for the site content then please let me know. Many of us use websites all the time to access information. We want to make our website a useful resource for members but to be effective we need your involvement both to use and develop the site.



This is your special invitation to the **Summer BBQ Saturday 7 July**. This has become our annual social event and a great opportunity to get to know other members, swap gardening successes and failures, and have an enjoyable afternoon. Tickets at £2.50 will be on sale from the 23 June at the shop or from committee members. I know people often want to wait to see what the weather will be like but with five-day forecasts you don't need to wait till the Saturday to decide, plus it makes ordering the burgers and other food options difficult.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the sales hut where you can choose the meat, fish, or vegetarian option. The ticket price includes the barbeque food and a soft or hot drink. We need to cover our costs so it's important that everyone has a ticket and hands it in when they collect their hot food. Members are asked to bring something to share and indicate on the sign-up sheet what that might be. In the past we have had some wonderful deserts, homemade bread, cakes and a wide range of salads. If you want to bring something stronger to drink you are welcome to do so.

Do make the effort to be there and if time is limited you could always combine it with a bit of gardening!

Paul Lattimer
Chair

Allotment Paths

As part of your tenancy agreement it is a requirement to keep the paths cut and free of obstructions. Unfortunately, we still have paths that are totally neglected, often when the plot is well tended! If you are an offender, please get the paths cut and keep them trimmed.

Thank you to all those who keep their paths trimmed and edged it makes such a difference to the look and safety of our site.

Overhanging Bushes

Too many plot-holders have fruit bushes and other plants that overhang the paths. If plants on your plot overhang the paths and cause an obstruction or danger to others they will be cut back. It's your responsibility to make sure the pathways are clear of obstructions.

Padlocks

Padlocks seem to be an ongoing problem. Several have been replaced recently. It is important that the gates are locked but there is no need for the chain to be wound so tightly that the padlock can't be undone easily. People need to be able to adjust the numbers from either side of the gate.

Allotment Shop

Open: Sat 2-3pm Sun 11-12noon

Strulch and netting now available. Plus, lots of other useful products for plot holders and garden members. If you can volunteer to serve in the shop that would be great, please leave your name and contact details with one of the shop volunteers and Barbara Greenwood will get in touch.

Help with Fruit Picking

There are many reasons why some people struggle to pick all their fruit. But it seems a shame for perfectly good gooseberries, raspberries, apples etc., to go to waste.

We have a plan. It would encourage our grandkids to (a) enjoy gardening and (b) help others.

We and our grandsons will pick your fruit and split it with you.

Maybe some can also go to a food bank or similar. No money changes hands however. We would not want to end up harvesting the entire site! But if you're someone who loves their plot but just can't get their fruit in, please get in touch. We'll try to help.

Michael & Susan Morse
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Thursday Volunteer Group TVG

We are a group of seven regulars occasionally boosted to nine. I hope you sometimes have a walk round the site to see the work we have been doing. Grass cutting takes precedence at this time of the year, to make it less onerous and to increase the biodiversity we have decided in certain areas to just cut a walkable path and to leave the grass and flowers to grow up. Hopefully this will deter those plot holders who continue to enter the site via the hedge, making small gaps much larger and often trampling seeding trees en route!



The circular bed of perennial wild flowers looks at its best in June; the flowers are a great source of nectar for bees and hover flies. We have also increased the size of the shaded fern and tree stump garden but don't have enough plants to complete the job at present.



We all have the opportunity to dispose of "rubbish" twice a year when the skips are on site, the TVG have on-going green material to deal with throughout the year so we DO NOT appreciate this being added to by plot holders. Dispose of green waste ideally by composting it, put it in your green waste bin at home or if it's not compostable take it to the tip at Seacroft or Meanwood.

Thanks Margaret Lattimer