



Summer Newsletter 2014

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 - editor@ragaleeds.org.uk.

Dear Members

A big thank you to all those who attended the AGM, it is a great opportunity to be more involved in the running and future planning for our wonderful site. One suggestion made at the AGM was to have a weekday evening opening of the shop. We are trialling it in June and if there is sufficient support from customers and volunteers we will continue.

Back in May we had a visit from some committee members from Hollin Lane allotments in Headingley (their site is on the Headingley side of Meanwood Park) they came to look at our hut and facilities and were very impressed.

You will have seen from the posters around the site that we have started a Thursday Volunteers Group but we need your help. We meet every Thursday 9am to 12, coffee/tea and biscuits at 10.30 bring your own mug! Everyone is welcome, we would love you to come for the whole session, but if you can only manage an hour you would still be very welcome. There are a range of activities; helping to maintain and develop the wildlife areas and hedgerows, strimming the grass that the mower can't deal with, preparing plots for re-letting, fencing, litter picking, weighing up dry goods for the shop and tidying up (ideal for those who can't manage heavy work).

We are also looking for tools and equipment for the group to use, so if you have anything that would be suitable, please bring it on a Thursday morning, leave it at the hut when the shop is open or ring me and I will collect it.

Happy allotmenting
Paul Lattimer (07914 792 829)

The Leeds & District Allotment Gardener's Federation are fighting Leeds City Council in the High Court over the Council's decisions on allotment rents. Come along and support your Federation on 16 July. You need to be there by 10am to get through security.

Wildlife Area & Hedgerows

I'm pleased to report that the majority of saplings that we planted to create the wildlife harvest hedge have survived and are thriving. I've had success also in growing some alder trees; they are still tiny but should eventually be happy in the very wet areas.

The red campion and foxgloves have been magnificent, look out now for white campion, Jacob's ladder and teasels. We have sown/planted a small summer meadow in front of the bug hotel. At least one of the nesting boxes, has been in use and we hope to increase the number of boxes next year with ones suitable for different species.

If you have any ideas for the development plan please contact Margaret on 216 0606 or margaretlattimer@hotmail.com

Dates for Your Diary

Every Thursday - Allotment volunteers 9 am-12 mid day

Sat 28 June am - Follow-up plot inspection

Mon 30 June - last date for Allotment Competition Plot entries

Sat 12 & Sun 13 - last chance to cut your grass paths and weed before Allotment Site judging

14 July - Allotment Competition judging begins this week

Mon 4 August 3pm - Britain in Bloom judges visit to our site

Sat 23 August - Full plot inspection

Shop News

Thank you to all plot holders and garden members who have been supporting the shop. When the newsletter goes out we should be stocked up again thanks to our delivery volunteers who will have been out in force on 16 June. We are trying to keep up but obviously cannot order until the stock is low enough to enable new to be stored.

There are plenty of slug pellets in stock of varying size bottles and makes, they seem to be quite popular this year!!

You should have noticed that we are trialling evening opening on Tuesdays 7pm - 8 pm. We do need volunteers for staffing and customers – many thanks to you who have visited and bought, it makes it worthwhile for the volunteers.

The Strimmer is also available through the hut during hut opening hours both for collection and return (fully charged please) it will cost £1 per session and £20 returnable deposit.

We have had requests for more scaffolding boards which we hope to order September/October time and also for Strulch. We need to know that we can sell 100 bags of Strulch to obtain the best price and again they must be collected as soon after delivery as possible. If you are interested please let us know either through the website or in the hut and if there is sufficient interest we can go ahead and order. Price will be available later. If you are not into the 'Strulch Club' then we will put details on the notice board in the Hut for perusal.

Members of the Management Committee

Paul Lattimer – Chair (20NA & 20S)

Margaret Pickersgill – Treasurer (21SA)

Brian Livesey – Secretary (25N)

Primrose Agbamu – Lettings Officer (4S)

Committee members: Bob Young (6S), Margaret Lattimer (20NA & 20S), Richard Smith (40S), Colin Jaggs (2N), Patrick Gillett (15N), Clive Mulatero (16N).

Come along to our plots and have a chat. Let us know how you want the site to be run and what facilities and services you would like to see and what you can do to help.

Onions

Orders are now being taken for winter onions and garlic, the list closes on 20 July and it may well be that there are not many spares so please place your orders in time.

Prices are given as a guide only.

Garlic bulbs	70p each
Japanese Senshyu	250g: £1.20
Silver moon (white)	250g: £1.20
Radar	250g: £1.35
Blood Red	250g: £1.50

You may order by email stating variety and quantity or sign up on the list which will be in the hut from Saturday 28 June 2014. Remember - deadline is 20 July either by signing up or by email. onions@raga-leeds.org.uk