



Summer Newsletter 2016

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 All

This year the Summer BBQ is on Saturday 9 July. It was a great success last year. If you didn't get to it do try to this year. For more details please see Will's item.

A big thank you to all who are making a great effort with their plots this spring. We had to leave a number of notes on plots at the end of April plot inspection and most people responded positively but some others have had warning letters.

We have had a number of enquiries about disposing of both organic and non-organic rubbish. The recommendation is that where possible plant material should be composted, if not ploholders need to make their own arrangements.

Our small but willing Thursday Volunteers continue to do a great job maintaining and improving the site. New volunteers are always welcome.

The Leeds and District Allotment Gardeners Federation (we are all members, membership cards can be collected from the sales hut) is running the annual Allotment Competition. The

entry date has been extended into June and the organizers are keen for ploholders to enter and as the saying goes, you have to be in it to win it. There is a special category for 'newcomers' - ploholders with two years or less experience. There is a poster on the notice board and further details on the LDGF website.

Enjoy your gardening

Paul Lattimer
Chairperson

Thursday Volunteer Group – working to enhance our allotment site.

The flowery areas are worth looking at and the demonstration plot is fully planted up. If anyone has any suitable plants - herbaceous perennials or annuals or trees for the hedgerows - leave them at the side of the hut.

A very big plea for EACH plot holder to maintain safe walkable paths ALL around their allotment and to be especially careful to make sure the eco loo is locked after use.

Margaret Lattimer

Bonfires

This year we have received several complaints about the smoke from bonfires. Our rules allow bonfires to be lit in order to dispose of dry organic material as long as the fire is extinguished before you leave the site. However it is not very neighbourly to have a bonfire where

the smoke is being blown towards other plotholders.

The Management Committee intends to purchase a number of incinerators for general use.

RAGA Barbeque

Hello everyone. Hopefully you will have seen the notice advertising our annual BBQ which is planned for the 9th July from around 12.00 noon till 2.00pm. Last year's event was a great success with approximately 50 people attending. It's a great opportunity to meet up and share growing experience and tips for success as well as to socialise with each other and hopefully have a bit of fun. As you can see from the photos we had a great day last year. Some of the highlights included the home baked bread, Chinese dumplings and cakes/puddings that plotholders kindly brought along.



So if you are a new plotholder interested in talking to others about what grows best on the site or a seasoned grower with experience to pass on to others and interested in meeting up to discuss vegetable and flower growing then why not come along at 12 noon on 9th July for an hour or two to meet others who share a common interest and find out more about what's going on.

As part of the process we also want to know if this sort of event is what people would like to be involved in or if there are other ideas you have which could improve on what we are suggesting so we will be asking you what you think might get more plotholders involved in such events.

Tickets are available in the hut £2.50 per adult, children free. There will be meat, fish and vegetarian options (subject to booking).



Finally if you are interested in volunteering please get in touch by emailing raga@raga-leeds.org.uk. It doesn't need to be anything too time consuming just helping on the day with putting up and taking down the Gazebo (30 mins) would be great.

Will Jennings

Gates

Please remember that the gates must be locked on entry and exit. The main gate will be opened by the hut volunteer when the shop is open and closed when the shop has closed – that is the only time when the gates should be left open. The padlock is not to be removed from the gate area. It has been on walkabout several times and the gate has been left open.

and finally.... Many members have been asking about the availability of the manure that we had delivered to the site from Goodall's farm. Unfortunately their separator is not working so no deliveries just yet.