



# Autumn Newsletter 2017

Welcome to the autumn 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](mailto:raga@raga-leeds.org.uk).

Dear Members

It's been a great season for fruit this year so no doubt plenty of jam has been made and boxes of fruit put in the freezer as well as much of it already consumed. However on a lot of plots there is soft fruit not picked, windfalls left to rot and fruit left on the trees. If you don't want the fruit perhaps you could let other plottolders harvest it rather than let it go to waste.

There was the usual flurry of activity before the plot inspection so we only had to leave a few 'action needed' notices and hopefully people will do what is required without the need for a warning letter.

Fruit bushes overhanging pathways are still causing a problem. If you don't cut them back and they are obstructing the path they may well be cut by the Thursday Volunteers and the branches left for you to dispose of.

Unfortunately we haven't been able to make any progress with our planning application to rebuild the hut and toilet. At the moment we have put a suggestion to the planner to screen the containers with a stone wall rather than replace the containers with a brick or stone building and we are waiting for his reply. Once we have any positive news we will let you know.

Don't forget about your plot now that autumn is here because even if you haven't any over wintering crops the grass and the weeds will still grow and need dealing with from time to time between now and the spring.

Happy gardening

Paul

## Manure

Judging by the speed at which the two deliveries of manure disappeared the provision of manure is a



popular service to members. However the money received did not cover the cost of the manure and the RAGA Committee felt that it

was unfair that members who did not take any manure should subsidise those members who did. The Management Committee decided to give members one last opportunity – there will be a delivery with a charge of 50p per barrow load. If the cost of the manure is not recouped we will not order any more.

## Thursday Volunteer Group

We always seem to be busy throughout the year but especially so at present. It is hedge cutting time again, we started on the wild harvest hedge a few weeks ago, and it is filling out very well and already producing elderberries and rose hips. We intend to keep it at fence height, hopefully it will thicken out lower down.

Cutting has progressed well on the eastern boundary and this year we will be able to deal with all the trimmings because we have recently purchased a petrol shredder. You may notice that the willow has been left. Leeds Coppice Workers will cut it down and re-use it for their school projects, this should happen in November.

Karin and Steve Wilde did the demonstration starter bed this year and it was very productive.

The burned trees are to be inspected and hopefully work will be done on them.

All the wildflower areas looked lovely this year, we have been working hard to tidy them and put them to bed for the winter in the hope that they will be even better next year.

Any new additions to our happy band will be made most welcome.

## Allotment Shop

The shop now has some new lines, including Autumn/Winter lines such as autumn lawn feed, bird seed, composted manure, ground cover sheeting and holding pegs.



Strulch is an organic composted straw weed suppressant and mulch. We have had several requests for this. The good news is that we'll have some in stock from the 1st of October and at a great price!! - We sell 150L bags for less than the price of 100L bags in Garden Centres!!

We are also concerned that people with Sunday commitments are unable to buy from the shop, so as an experiment the shop will be open on Saturday October 7th, Saturday November 4th and December 2nd at 11 - 12.

Next summer March to June we will return to Saturday and Sunday opening each weekend.

As usual we are closing for midwinter 17<sup>th</sup> December to 21<sup>st</sup> January inclusive.

Any queries or requests contact Barbara Greenwood by text on 07521271633.

## Seed Catalogues



Kings seed catalogues are now available from the shop. Orders to be with Margaret Pickersgill by Sunday 3rd December and may be handed in to the shop any Sunday when open. All orders plus cheque/cash must be in an envelope as the seed money and the shop cash are separate entities. Please ensure that your name, address and contact information are included along with relevant details for individual seed order (order number, page number etc). We are offering 20% discount this year and all orders come pre packed and will be ready for collection at the beginning of January.

## Skip

A skip will be available on site for the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> October to allow members to dispose of non-compostable waste from their plots – not turf and soil.

## Lettings

After a brief period at the beginning of the summer when there were no vacant plots and no one on the waiting list there has been a recent flurry of requests for plots (currently around 10) and a trickle of plots becoming available. There has also been good interest in the starter beds, and all six will be let quite soon.

Peter Howarth (Lettings Officer)

## Have you ordered your potatoes and onions for summer 2018?



The list for ordering is in the shop; available on Sundays 11-12. Please write your **name, plot or Garden Member number, email address and telephone number** on the list with the order.

The list will close end of November 2017.

Should you miss the hut on Sundays, you can examine the list of varieties selected then record your choice on an email with your **name, plot or Garden Member number, email address & telephone number** and send it to Patrick Gillett at **potoniorders@gmail.com**

You can also view the list of onion and potato varieties available for purchase by visiting the RAGA website at [www.raga-leeds.org.uk/newsletter/Varieties2018.htm](http://www.raga-leeds.org.uk/newsletter/Varieties2018.htm)

