



# Spring Newsletter 2014

Welcome to the Spring 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@raga-leeds.org.uk.

Dear Members

I am delighted to see all the activity on our site now that Spring is here. Big welcome to all our new members and I wish you every success and of course that goes for all our existing members as well.

Following the recent plot inspection the management committee was very pleased with the overall state of plots but there were some that needed attention and hopefully that is being done now that the weather is improving.

Please make every effort to come to AGM, as well as the formal business of the meeting it is an opportunity to express your views, make suggestions for the future and offers of help.

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers, in whatever capacity you are able to offer. As a committee member, serving in the hut, helping with deliveries, the wildlife area, Tuesday maintenance group or one off events like hedge planning and the number posts.

Paul Lattimer (Chair)

We have recently negotiated a 5% discount for members from a Bradford-based company called Asgard. They manufacture steel storage systems for bikes, tools, mowers, etc. Look at their website at [www.asgardsss.co.uk](http://www.asgardsss.co.uk) and if you wish to place an order with the 5% discount then contact Brian on [secretary@raga-leeds.org.uk](mailto:secretary@raga-leeds.org.uk) and he will send you the discount code.

**The 2014 AGM will be held in the The Roundhay Room, St Andrew's Church Hall**

**Wednesday 23 April at 7.30pm**

## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013
4. Matters arising
5. Officers' reports
6. Rents for 2014-15
7. Election of officers, other committee members and trustees
8. Appointment of an independent examiner
9. Site development
10. Sales Hut and hut volunteers
11. Social events
12. Update from Leeds & District Allotment Gardeners Association
13. Any other business

Copies of the unconfirmed minutes of the 2013 meeting are available in the hut, on the website and included as an attachment with this newsletter.

Tea/coffee and biscuits from 7.15pm

## Leeds and District Allotment Gardeners Federation

Once again we will be entering our site into this competition. There will also be the chance for members to enter their own plots to be judged against lots of plots on allotment sites throughout Leeds. Watch the noticeboard for more details. Note that there is a special category for newcomers to allotment gardening.

**A skip will be on the site on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April for your non-compostable waste.**

### **Wildlife area and site perimeter.**

Firstly, very big thank you to all those who came on February 1<sup>st</sup> to help plant the wildlife hedge. We had a great response and managed to plant over four hundred saplings in just over two hours.

The day before Paul had done a demonstration stretch of planting and I had rearranged all the plants into mixed bundles. The saplings are dogwood, blackthorn, dog rose, hawthorn, hazel and elder. Hopefully the majority will survive despite the very wet conditions at the time of planting. In time we should have a lovely 'wildlife harvest' hedge.

If you walk past the southern fence or have a plot along the top please check for any damage and let me know. Each sapling should have a cane and a spiral plastic protector. I have collected the seeds from alder cones and hope to grow these on to plant in the very wettest areas, they won't mind having their roots in water.

More planting has been done in the 'woodland' area near the large bramble patch. We should have solid patches of foxglove and honesty in the summer to compliment the red campion that's already established.

I have done selections of seeds of shade and sun loving plants, mainly from seeds I've saved. If you would like to devote a small patch of your plot to growing either selection I'd be grateful. Any particularly strong plants can then be transferred to an appropriate spot in the wildlife area. Collect your free seeds from the sales hut. The resulting plants will be a mixture of annuals and perennials.

If you have any plants, bird/bat boxes or materials to add to a better constructed 'bug-hotel' please let me know. Or if you would like to be more closely involved in developing the wildlife area I would love to hear from you.

Many thanks. Margaret Lattimer 2160606  
margaretlattimer@hotmail.com

### **An offer you cannot refuse!**

**Attend the AGM on 23 April and collect a voucher which will entitle you to a 10% discount at your next visit to the sales hut.**

### **Shop news**

There has been a slight reorganisation in the shop as we have had a partition erected in order to store non-shop items safely. Our ground cover, fleece, enviromesh and scaffold netting are now suspended from the rafters and should be easier to measure.

We have new items in stock –rigger gloves, rock dust (full of thousands of minerals) scaffold netting, fibre glass rods (for cloches instead of blue water pipe).

We continue to stock composted manure, gro-well multipurpose compost, peat free compost, ericaceous compost, all the John Innes composts and 4 plant grow bags.

There are slug pellets in abundance both mini blue and organic along with Slug gone – a sheep wool based product (very effective.) All well known fertilisers are available as well as canes in sizes from 2 ft to 8 ft.

Come in and pay us a call, explore the space, there is much more to see. Come and help in the shop, meet other plot holders and soak up the mine of information with which you will be showered. Not happy handling the money then come and help weigh up, everybody is welcome. Do your bit for our community.