



## Spring Newsletter 2017

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 - raga@raga-leeds.org.uk.

Dear Members

Big thank you to all those who were able to attend the meeting to discuss the rebuilding of the hut and toilet; the consensus was that we should develop plans using containers. Christian Sanders provided some very impressive illustrations showing how containers could be disguised using trellising and evergreen climbing plants. He has also volunteered to produce the plans necessary to get planning consent. Hopefully I will be able to give you a further update at the **AGM on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at the Gledhow Sports and Social Club.**

**Paths**, I know I have mentioned this before and to all those and there are a lot of you, who keep your paths trimmed and safe to walk on, thank you. However there some paths that rarely if ever get cut; it is **each plot holder's responsibility to keep the paths that border the plot in good order.** Talk to your plot neighbours and find an amicable way to share the task if you share a path with them. Please be aware that the paths are not there just for you, they are for other plot holders as well, to move safely around the site. Recently the volunteers have been doing some repairs to the paved path that had become unsafe. **It is important that members do not reduce the width of paths, dig so close to them that they are undermined or put plant supports and plant right up to paths.** If you do, you make the paths potentially dangerous for others to use. Paths should be wide enough to be used by someone with a full wheel

barrow. If your paths are narrower than that, please do what you can to improve the situation

**Strimmer for hire.** Our battery strimmer was lost in the fire but fortunately we now have two replacement strimmers that will be available to borrow as before - £20 deposit and £1 towards covering the cost of blades. Please make sure the battery is recharged before it's returned.

Happy gardening  
Paul

**There will be a skip on the site for a week from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The skip is available for ploholders to dispose of any non-compostable waste.**

### Thursday Volunteer Group (TVG)

We had a marvelous response to the clean up after the arson attack. I calculated that between us all we put in about 150 people hours. Many thanks to all those who helped. The TVG continues to keep the site looking cared for and tidy. Spring flowers are adding a cheerful note at present and the perennial bed looks full of promise now the plants are becoming more established.

We are always busy clearing vacant plots ready for new tenants but it is rather dispiriting if new plot holders don't get on with cultivation and allow plots to become really difficult to deal with. Those of you on the east side to the site will have seen the hedge clippings neatly stored (until we get chance to deal with them) at the top corner. Please **do not** add vegetable waste; it is not fair and is pure laziness. Dispose of **your own waste** either by composting, removal from the site or store and wait for the skip.

Can I also ask that those of you with a plot at the top of the site, that is the south side, to keep an eye on the wild harvest hedge? If any trimming needs to be done please dispose of the clippings yourself; do not throw them over the fence Hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose clippings are awful to deal with once they have dried and it's the TVG who maintain the hedge not the Roundhay Park staff.

Don't forget to pot up any tree seedlings that appear on your plot – we can always use them in the hedge rows.

**Don't forget the AGM which will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at the Gledhow Sports and Social Club**

## Health and Safety

### 1. Accident Book

From April 1st there will be an accident book kept in the shop.

Plot holders are requested to report any accidents/near misses in the book and/or contact Steve Wilde on 01132686344 with the details.

In this way any problems can be investigated and remedial action taken.

### 2. Fires

All fires should not be left unattended and must be completely extinguished before leaving the site.

Members are also asked to show due consideration to other plot holders and the general public. For example a fire on a windy weekend or bank holiday may well result in a nuisance being caused.[See also Constitution and Rules which can be downloaded from the RAGA website]

### 3. Paths

Communal pathways need to be kept clear of overhanging bushes and any tripping hazards - again this is covered in the Constitution and Rules.

Your cooperation with these points would be greatly appreciated.

Steve Wilde

## Primrose

Primrose (Agbamu) has decided to retire as Lettings Secretary after a **very** long time in the job. I am sure that we are all extremely grateful for everything Primrose has done over the years and I hope that retirement doesn't mean that she will no longer visit our plots for a chat.

We have a replacement in Peter Haworth (Plots 49B and 51A). Peter can be contacted via raga@raga-leeds.org.uk or ragalettings@gmail.com.

**Shop/Container opening hours are Sundays 11am to noon**

and finally .....

Brian received the following email recently:

## The Big Rhubarb Request

Hello fellow plot holders and gardeners.

We need your help locating surplus rhubarb; we know there is lots around. We are trialling 4 rhubarb workshops for community groups to learn how to cook and preserve this abundant local delicacy.

Hyde Park Source aim to improve health and wellbeing through improving the environment; the groups we will work with are specifically for adults at risk of mental health issues. Annmarie and I (Luke) help co-ordinate a community allotment plot on Woodhouse Moor; we are piloting a new community food project that works with local produce and community groups like these to make their own preserved healthy food products. We will be making bottled (canned) dessert, rhubarb cordial, edible confetti and dehydrated fruit leather as well as enjoying a crumble. These skills should help people enjoy rhubarb throughout the year.

If you can put us in touch with people who have a surplus of rhubarb or even help us by harvesting it (with permission!) this would help us get this project off the ground. If your allotment or a community group you know might want a similar workshop or rhubarb day then get in touch. We will also be working with strawberries, currents and apples throughout the year.

Please call me on 07542437755 if you can help

Thanks for your time and support.

Luke & Annmarie