



Spring Newsletter 2016

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,

Our next collective event is the AGM 7:30pm Thursday 7 April. We have a new venue this year, the Gledhow Social Club (Police Social Club) on Geldhow Lane, there is plenty of parking and as well as the usual tea, coffee and biscuits the bar will be open. I know a lot of you don't come to the AGM, perhaps you think it will be boring or you will get asked to do something you don't want to do. Of course we are always keen to welcome new members to the Management Committee and for people to volunteer in other capacities which some of you do already. We have 124 members but only about 20% come to the AGM.

Why come? Well importantly to elect the committee and trustees, (nomination forms will be sent out with the agenda). Approve changes to the RAGA Constitution and Rules. Receive reports of the activities this year and plans for the coming year. That is the formal part of the meeting which is followed by an open forum where you can ask questions and make suggestions. The best suggestions of course come with an offer of help as well.

The days are getting longer so more time to spend on your plot. Not easy I know with all the other competing pressures in life but I think a little and often is the key to getting the best from your plot. Fruit bushes and other plants **must not** overhang the

paths, if they do they will be cut back to make the paths and roadways safe and passable for other members. By all means grow as much as you can on your plot but do not plant outside the plot boundary it is not necessary and makes access and maintenance difficult for others.

It is Compost Awareness Week 1st to 7th May, why not make a start now. If you are not sure how to go about it have a look at the 'Carry On Composting' web site. If you have stuff you can't compost then please take it home and put it in your 'Brown' garden waste bin or take it to the tip. Please garden responsibly!

There will be a skip this spring hopefully end of March/ beginning of April, date to be confirmed. Please keep items for the skip on your plot until it is available. The next **Plot Inspection will be on Saturday 30 April**, make sure your plot number post is not obstructed and the number is visible.

You may have noticed that we have two new wheel barrows at the side of the hut for members to use. Please make sure they are returned and locked up. After comments about how easy the bike locks were to use to secure the barrows I put them on the gates. Unfortunately within a week someone managed to change the combination on the main gate and I had to buy bolt cutters to remove it, so we are back with the chain and padlock.

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM

Best wishes

Paul Lattimer

Chairperson

Thursday Volunteer Group – working to enhance our allotment site

Despite the poor winter weather we were only defeated on one occasion by snow. Hedge maintenance in Oct/Nov was a priority, it's always a huge job to cut and then dispose of all the clippings, we have almost managed it. Recently the wild harvest hedge has been weeded, fed and mulched, the dog roses in particular are doing very well. Last week 104 saplings arrived from the Woodland Trust, they will be used to fill in any gaps in that hedge.

Fence Working Party Day on Feb 6th was extremely wet but a small group of us did manage to do some good preparation work for the fence repair. Thanks must go to Mark Fozzard for helping to get the timber from Red Hall; we are now working on Thursdays to make good the fence on the Old Park Road boundary.

We hope soon to organize and plant up the stumpery. If you have any spare ferns or real shade loving plants please leave them at the side of the hut.

A planting plan for the demonstration bed will be displayed in the hut soon, please let us know if you have any suitable spare plants as the season progresses. The cook at the residential home in Park View Crescent will be happy to use the produce from the bed as it is picked. If you also can contribute spare produce this year please tell us.

Eco Loo – *Aim to please!* Remember the wood shavings only go in the rear section of the loo, if you have a spillage or a poor aim then please brush up or fish out. Always supervise children and please, please leave the cubicle in the state you would wish to find it, not in the disgusting state we found it one Thursday. Gloves and water are always available.

Fly Tipping - Do not dump plant "rubbish" on paths, in the manure/woodchip bays, down the slope at the west end of the top path or in the large bays at the road side of the hut. We did not appreciate all the large gooseberry branches dumped on what is the compost heap for the Thursday group.

Path maintenance and access - A good test, if you are unsure how good your paths should be is to push a loaded wheel barrow on the paths you are responsible for, if you have difficulty then please remedy the situation by cutting the grass, maintaining the edges, removing overhanging branches and removing obstacles. Using weed killer is not a suitable alternative to edging paths; it can kill up to a third of the path which is then likely to break away.

Allotment Hut

We sell

- A great range of composts, fertilizers & feeds – both non-organic & organic
- A variety of canes, netting & ground cover
- An assortment of pest control products
- Bird food & garden gloves

Stock clearance - less than half price on selected tomato feed, potato fertilizer, weed killer & slug pellets (you can never have too many slug pellets)

Want to **read** more about gardening? – we have some **FREE** pamphlets & RHS magazines– just pop in, peruse & procure.

Opening Times:

Saturday 2pm to 3pm

Sunday 11am to 12 noon

P.S. Do new plot holders know that stuff by the hut is up for grabs? There are a lot of pots of all sizes, wheely-bins, compost bins, etc which don't seem to move. Some of course may have been put there because they were blown from their original locations by high winds.