



Autumn Newsletter 2013

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 - editor@ragaleeds.org.uk.

Dear Members

As the growing season and harvesting comes to an end we say good-bye for a variety of reasons to some of our members. Jean North in particular has been a great supporter of our site, past member of the committee and willing volunteer and we wish her well for the future. In their place we have new members and I want to welcome all of you to Roundhay Allotments. We hope that you will enjoy many happy years here growing and harvesting your produce. Once you are settled in and have your plot in order we hope you will volunteer for the activities organised by the committee, or consider becoming a committee member.

We are always looking for volunteers to work in the Sales Hut and we would certainly welcome you to join us for the Tuesday afternoon working group (at the moment 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month). There will be hedge trimming before the October skip and hedge planting later in autumn. Contact Barbara Greenwood for the Sales Hut Volunteers tel. [REDACTED]. For anything else contact me via email or on [REDACTED], or any member of the committee.

We have had two plot inspections recently which were made much more time consuming than necessary because of the lack of numbers on a lot of plots. This has been a problem for a long time and even where there are numbers they can take some time to locate especially in the growing

season. If your plot does not have a number please sort one out.

The committee are considering introducing a standard numbering system using a 3ft post, as far as possible in the same place on each plot, painted white at the top with the number and letters in black. We are in the process of costing it at the moment, but it may be too expensive. We have 103 plots! If you know of any posts at a good price or better still free, let me know!

On Friday 20th September small group of members attended the very enjoyable Leeds and District Allotment Gardeners Federation Awards Evening and Social. Our site did not get an award this year although we did improve our position in the Allotments Site competition but once again our inter-plot paths let us down. We need everyone's cooperation to do better in that area. No individual plots were entered this year but hopefully some of you will enter next year and come to the social there were some real bargains to be had at the auction!

I have already mentioned the October skip, can I urge you to take this opportunity to get rid of all the non-compostable rubbish from your plot as part of your autumn clear-up. Please do not neglect your paths, make sure they are trimmed and edged it makes our site look better and it is safer for us all; one plot holder this season injured her ankle on an uncut, un-edged path!

Best wishes

Paul Lattimer (Chair)

The Wildlife Area

The wildlife area is developing nicely. Red Champion has established well in the shaded bed, there should be a really good show next summer. The dog roses have flowered for the first time and are now supported on willow structures. We are attempting to suppress the grass in front of the Bug Hotel, this is where the little sunny meadow will be; free seeds will be available in the spring for you to grow on and then plant in this area. The blackberries have been exceptional this year, no need to venture far to go blackberrying!

We should hear soon if we have been awarded any native trees from the Woodland Trust, any we get will be planted in the perimeter hedge.

Please let me know if you have any ideas about the wildlife area.

Margaret Lattimer, tel. [REDACTED]

A skip will be on the site on the 12th and 13th of October for your non-compostable waste.

Shop News

Seed catalogues are now available from the hut, a discount of 25% is available to all SEED orders. The orders will come individually packed from King's seeds so that we do not have to sort out a myriad of packets. Please collect a catalogue and be sure to have your order in ASAP and no later than 1st December. Only seed orders please.

Lists are also up for Onions, shallots and potatoes. Please visit the hut and place your orders before the late November deadline.

Is there anyone out there who would like to lead a weighing-up team. You need to keep an eye on the shelves to see when the stocks are

getting low. Please contact Brian who will pass on details of all you eager beavers.

A date for your new 2014 diaries

The 2014 AGM will be held on Wednesday 23 April at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Hall.

Come along and support your committee and have a say in how our site is run.

If you have any questions, suggestions, complaints or even praise about the site then please speak to a member of the committee. The current committee consists of:

Paul Lattimer (Chair), [REDACTED]

Margaret Pickersgill (Treasurer), [REDACTED],

Brian Livesey (Secretary), [REDACTED],

Primrose Agbamu (Lettings Officer), [REDACTED],

Margaret Lattimer (Shop & Wildlife Area), [REDACTED],

Bob Young (Lettings), [REDACTED]

Richard Smith (Lettings), [REDACTED]

Colin Jaggs, [REDACTED]

Martin Shipley

Martin Shipley has been greatly missed since his stroke in May. We are very pleased that he has at last come home from hospital and with his usual doggedness and determination is striving to improve his situation. His sense of humour and ability to converse on many topics has not diminished. Martin has had to give up his plot but you may catch a glimpse of him out and about. We shall miss his organisational skills in dealing with the seed orders and the potato and onion orders. We wish him well and hope his gradual improvement continues.