

Rye Community Food and Wildlife Garden

Newsletter No 18: December 2017

With the shortening days and onset of the really cold weather, the Garden is now in hibernation until March. The last infrastructure jobs were completed in November with the installation of the final raised bed - courtesy of Dominic, James & Nigel - and more secure chicken-wire fencing that should now keep the whole cultivated area secure and rabbit-free – these pesky animals quickly made short work of the initial plastic mesh fencing!



So, all that we need now is some more wood chip to create sound (and mud-free) pathsand we will be all set for a hugely productive 2018!!



Nigel also managed to clear away the dead willow to create space for the new hazel copse. The dead wood was added to the longitudinal mound edging the path through the glade making a natural wildlife sanctuary over the hard winter months.

Rye Community Food and Wildlife Garden

Newsletter No 18: December 2017

OVER-WINTERING CROPS

At the end of October, two of our youngest volunteers – Daisy and Miro – enthusiastically sowed **broad beans** and, I'm pleased to say, these have now germinated. They also harvested the last of the pumpkins and, for all their hard work, they were rewarded with the last of the raspberries!



In addition, **onions** and garlic have been planted: the onions in one of the raised beds, and the garlic in one of the triangular beds.

There are young **strawberry plants** in each of the hanging baskets on the gazebo uprights – hopefully, these will survive their first winter and generate lots of beautiful fruit for us next summer – and the **raspberry bed** has been fleshed out with some summer-fruiting canes thereby extending our raspberry ‘season’.

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

Planting Day: I'm afraid that we ran out of time to make any headway with the planting of the 70-odd perennials from Fairlight Hall so this will now be a Spring Event.

Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop: there are still a couple of places for this interesting event on **April 7th**.

Great Get Together in June 2018: the Committee is continuing with the plans for this – a case of WACH THIS SPACE!

Rye Community Food and Wildlife Garden

Newsletter No 18: December 2017

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME:

Following on from the discussions held with **Rother Voluntary Action** in the summer, we have made progress on the plans to sign up a **part-time Co-ordinator** who would be tasked with establishing a more ambitious Outreach Programme. An application to the Sussex Community Fund towards the cost of this has been successful and we are now approaching two other grant-giving bodies to try and reach our target of £5000 to fund a 12-month trial period. If this approach is successful in raising the numbers of Garden visitors and/or users, we will look to make this a more permanent feature of the Garden.

Sandra Sarkies and her two colleagues are steadily working through the To-Do List to make the **School Pond** a reality. Their deadline is to submit an application for funding in January. For our part, we are working towards getting sufficient funding for the **Compost Toilet** - a necessary facility for the hoped-for greater usage of the Garden - but making contingency plans in case the funding takes longer to procure than we hope and/or anticipate!

WORK SESSIONS: the full schedule for our regular Work Sessions will re-start in March but if anyone wants to work off their Christmas excess, there are some jobs that could be tackled if weather conditions permit

- Continued weeding of boundary hedge
- Laying of wood chip paths
- Erection of fencing panels down the slope from the Love Lane entrance
- Winter pruning of overhanging trees
- Tidy-up of flowering border along the school fence

For further information:

Either, e-mail to ryegarden@hotmail.com

Or, write to [Rye Community Garden c/o 14 Love Lane Rye TN31 7NE](#)

Or, you can go to:

Either, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rye.communitygarden> to 'like' us

and [follow our postings](#)

Or, <http://transitionrye.org.uk> and click on Activities

Hard hats/gloves/appropriate tools are available in the metal shed but please wear **sturdy footwear** because the ground is still very uneven; bringing a **hot/cold drink** to refresh yourself would also be sensible but there is now a **covered social space** against inclement weather!