

Rye Community Food and Wildlife Garden

Newsletter No 19: February 2018

Without really knowing how, we are already in the last two weeks of February and need to start thinking about waking the Garden up from its winter slumbers. Despite the relentless rain, the wood-chipped paths keep the cultivated area relatively dry underfoot so we can think about sowing seeds – parsnips, leeks – and a 2nd variety of broad beans in the raised beds.

The over-wintering onions and garlic are looking good, as are Daisy & Miro's autumn-planted broad beans.



Onions in the raised bed and shallots in the triangular bed – both growing well!



Daisy's and Miro's hard work



....last autumn paying off now!

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The regular WORK SESSIONS re-commence in March. To jog your memories, the schedule is:

1st & 3rd Tuesdays between 2-4pm

2nd & 4th Saturdays between 11am – 1pm

The relevant dates for all your dairies are as follows:

MARCH

Tuesdays: 6th & 20th

Saturdays: 10th & 24th

APRIL

Tuesdays: 3rd & 17th

Saturdays: 14th & 28th

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As ever, the Garden Committee have been hard at work behind the scenes planning the spring events in the Garden

March will see us tidying up the Garden after any winter damage – dropped tree branches cleared away, weeds lifted before these get into their stride and take over, grassed areas receiving their first (lean) cut ie. nothing too daunting so, if you want to work off some of the festive excesses, you know where to come! We also have to clear the area proposed for the new **herbaceous border**, between the willows and the cultivated area, to be planted out with the perennials donated by Fairlight Hall last autumn; with the ground soft after all the winter rains, this is the best time to tackle this particular job.

Ever eager, the **Brownies** pay their first visit on **March 21st**.

In **April**, the fun begins!

First up, on **Saturday April 7th**, is the **Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop** for which there is one last place available at a cost of £25. Please e-mail through to our e-mail address if you want to attend – the place will go to on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

A week later, on **Saturday April 14th**, we will be holding the **Planting Day** for the Fairlight Hall perennials.

June and plans for the **Great Get Together Day** are taking shape. Nationally, this has now been linked with the more established Big Lunch celebrations. The Diary Date is **Saturday, June 23rd** and we need as much networking as possible

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to mobilise all the various organisations in/around Rye to participate: Rother Environmental Group, Transition Rye, the 5 local WI branches, the Toyota Hastings Team, etc. It has the makings of a wonderful community event.

Since 2018 marks the **100th Anniversary of Woman's Suffrage**, it seems especially fitting that we should remember **Jo Cox**, the murdered MP, as well as other women who did much to encourage people to live their lives well. One of these was **Elsbeth Thompson**, a resident of Winchelsea Beach, who sadly died in 2010. For many years she wrote a column *The Urban Gardener* in the Sunday Telegraph. The RHS administers a fund in her name to support gardens and gardeners and the Community Garden has applied for £1200 towards our Co-ordinator position (see more on this later) with an additional £500 for a garden bench in memory of Elspeth. A decision on our application is expected in March. We will also be asking our MP, the Rt. Hon. Amber Rudd, to attend on the day and unveil this memorial.

So, lots to celebrate!!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR POSITION:

As mentioned in the December Newsletter (No 18) we have been awarded a total of £2000 by the Sussex Community Fund: £1500 from the **Glenn & Phyllida Earle Fund** which they administer & £500 from the **Rye Fund**. We are quietly optimistic that our approaches to two other grant-giving bodies – the **RHS Elspeth Thompson Bursary** and **Rye Community Shop** – will be successful. If so, we will have reached our target of £4000 to fund a 40-week trial period. [Since the Garden ‘slumbers’ between December-February, the Committee decided that the trial period should exclude these 3 months hence costs being lower than advised previously.] A draft Job Description is currently under review but the aim is to publicise this position - using social media, Rye News and Rye Fixtures - during March so that the successful applicant can commence their duties in April.

COMPOST TOILET:

The Community Garden was invited to apply to the **Toyota SLM (Hastings) Fund for a Better Tomorrow** for their maximum grant of £2000 to help with the all-weather pathways that will be necessary both for the pond and the compost toilet. We are also now actively seeking funding and/or sponsorship for the actual toilet (model; Kazuba KL2 WooWoo waterless toilet) via, amongst others, the

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Little Cheyne Wind Farm Community Fund which has been very generous to us in the past.

SCHOOL POND PROJECT:

Sandra Sarkies and her two colleagues successfully submitted their funding application in January and now await a decision.

PUBLICITY:

After a successful mentoring session with Mike Pepler, the Garden now has its own page on the Transition Rye web-site, as follows :

www.transitionrye.org.uk/community-garden

We will also be publishing the Work Sessions dates on Rye News.

2018 Q1-2 ACTION LIST

- Continued weeding of boundary hedges
- Laying of wood chip paths
- Erection of fencing panels down the slope from the Love Lane entrance
- Tidy-up of flowering border along the school fence
- Clearance of ground for new herbaceous bed in preparation for April 14th
- Sowing of broad beans and potatoes
- Tree branch surgery; this must be under CIC management

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/community-garden>

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!