

Rye Community Food and Wildlife Garden

Newsletter No 11: June 2016

Dear Community Garden Supporter,

Following on from our recent Steering Group meeting, we have now regularised the work sessions to be as follows:

1st & 3rd Tuesday afternoons (of any month), between 2-4pm

2nd & 4th Saturdays mornings (of any month), between 11am-2pm

So, the next session is this coming **Saturday, June 25th** and, in July, the sessions will be:

Tuesdays, July 5th & 19th

Saturdays, July 9th & 23rd

It is hoped that this will both encourage a wider 'drop-in' approach whilst reducing the load on the existing Committee Members.

Work session dates will now be posted on the two sign-boards so that anyone can turn up and work alongside whoever is there. Of course, the Garden is open at all times for anyone to sit and enjoy the peace and serenity

But, as life would have it, that carefully planned schedule has been thrown up in the air because, on **Tuesday, June 28th** (not a scheduled work session!) we will be hosting the **Primary School children and their pumpkins!**

So, with apologies for the abysmally short notice, **Saturday, June 25th**: focus on preparing everything for that visit; the two Hugel beds have been made ready - last Tuesday, Nigel & Pip tidied these up and laid a wood-chip surround to give the children a 'clean' space in which to move around. But, we also want the children to plant out at least some of Dominic's carefully nurtured sunflowers so some loose digging of the area under the carpet is urgently required

Tuesday, June 28th: help will be needed to simply 'manage' the children's visit.

Each classroom (14 in all) sowed 2 seeds and the stronger of the two is to be planted out with the resultant pumpkins ready in time for the children's Halloween fun.



Additional top-soil added to the Hugel beds and a wood-chip surround laid out

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A start has been made on clearing back the intrusive bramble/willow scrub next to the gazebo. The newly-planted Saltcote Pippin had been swamped by the rampant willow but, now look at it – completely liberated!



There's much more of the bramble and willow to clear away but we were also able to plant an oak sapling which was found happily growing under the 'protection' of the onions.

The 'summer' crops (broad beans LHS; beetroot/spring onions, centre; potatoes RHS) are all coming along very nicely with minimal interference from visiting rabbits



With Katharine off getting new tools, and Dominic & Pip tackling the bramble/willow scrub, Nigel set to with gusto weeding and mulching the heritage apple trees...and what a good job he made of it. All are growing well with even a blossom or two in sight. Happily, after a painfully slow start in which we thought the tree had died, the **Lady Sudeley** apple is now beginning to show slow but steady growth. Our thanks to Nigel for also mowing all of the grass

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UNFINISHED ACTIONS:

The path is still a 'work in progress' but, with another load of wood-chippings delivered by RDC's contractors, it should soon be complete.

There are still about 10 hedging saplings – mostly dog rose – to be found space for along the Love Lane boundary.

NEW DONATIONS:

The Women's Institute (Landgate) presented Katharine & Pip with a **donation of £25** after the pair had given a presentation on the Garden at their June 15th meeting. The assembled Members were all enchanted with the idea of the Garden and some came down to look at the Garden on the 21st with the promise of joining in on another Tuesday afternoon session.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME:

We will be having a stall at the **Tilling Green Garden Party** on Sunday, June 26th between 11am-3pm. If you could assist on the day we'd be grateful!

Hastings & Rother Locality (Health in Mind) - scheduled for July 14th - to be given by Pip Al-Khafaji.

RVA MENTORING SERVICE

Pip is having a follow-up meeting with Derek Stevens on July 6th to see what progress has been made on the various issues that need to be addressed.

2016 PROJECTS:

Dominic has been extremely busy preparing a new 'sketch' of the Garden – widened to encompass the area to the RHS of the Entrance ramp where the School's pond will be located and also the agreed location for the compost toilet. This was to hand at the WI meeting and no doubt the broader scale of what is planned grabbed the eyes of the audience!

Richard Hare (the gazebo supplier) has provided us with a quote for a sustainably-built **compost toilet housing unit**. The Steering Group now has to research suitable self-maintaining equipment and also installation costs

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

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

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Q3 ACTION LIST

- **Volunteer to lead dated (and advertised) work sessions**
- If weather has been dry, water raised beds and recently planted trees
- Put up ladybird house (a donation from John & Helen Griffiths)
- Put back up the bee hotels (tree where key safe is)
- Pruning of raspberry canes; at end of season relocate parallel to HugelKulture beds
- Completion of new path with **chippings laid onto black plastic bags** (to be found in Jo's shed)
- Widen entrance between ramp and path
- Weeding of new hedge
- Grass mowing especially in Nigel's glade and along the ditch banks
- Seeding of drainage ditch bank with wild flower seeds (Jo's shed)
- On-going clearance of brambles from the willows adjacent to the new gazebo
- On-going thinning of these willows
- Levelling of ground under gazebo – decision on suitable 'flooring'
- Please donate any of your unneeded equipment, compost, plants etc.
- **Help publicise the garden via word of mouth and social media and grow the number of our volunteers**

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!