

Rye Community Food and Wildlife Garden

Newsletter No 12: August 2016

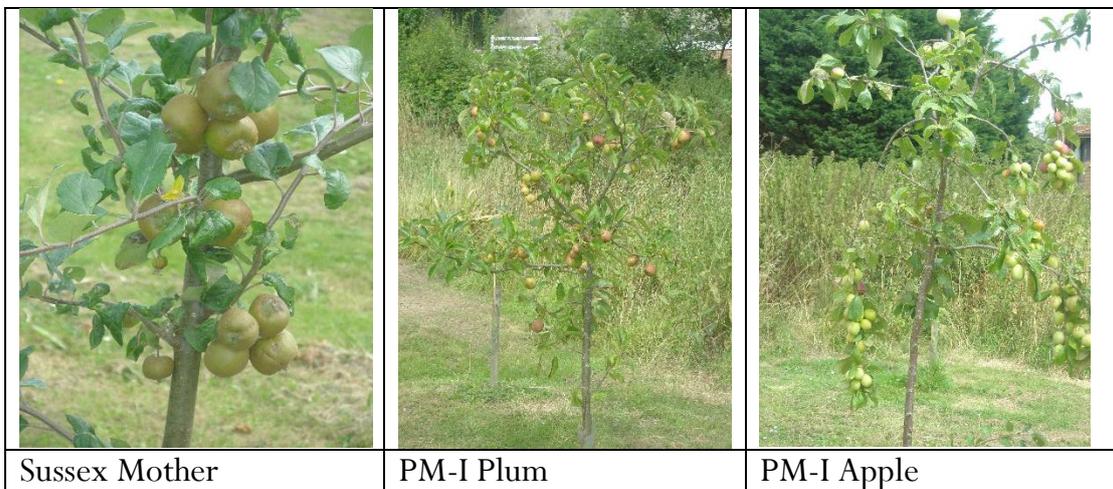
Dear Community Garden Supporter,

Despite the near absence of meaningful rainfall throughout July/August, the Primary School pumpkins thrive on the Hugel beds when the children return for the Autumn Term in a couple of weeks' time, they will find several growing pumpkins in amongst the rampant tendrils.

Sadly, the rabbits got to the sunflower plot before we did with protective netting so only two of these survive but, with a good digging over this autumn, the plot will make for a magnificent potato bed next Spring.



In addition, the **Sussex Mother** apple tree is the first of our heritage trees to produce some fruit! All the others are growing well and next year should see us able to actually harvest our first proper crop. The two donated plum trees and their companion apple tree are also bearing fruit so the relocation from South Undercliffe over the winter of 2014 was 100% successful.



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The dry conditions don't seem to have affected any of the 70-odd saplings that were planted on Earth Day and the hedge, planted in early 2015, has also established itself and is beginning to thicken up.



On this front, full credit must go to Ian who has worked tirelessly over the last few weeks digging out the new path. As you can see, this now runs the whole length of the hedge from ramp to the sheds. We'll certainly enjoy the benefit come next Spring when, for the first time, we will have a dry path to allow access to the Garden. Ever the perfectionist, Ian wants to do some tweaking once he is back in September.....

The **broad beans, potatoes, onions and garlic** have now all been harvested; if you would like some of the produce, go quickly to Love Lane or e-mail through!

Now empty of growing produce, the raised beds need a thorough digging out – but once we have had some rain to soften the top soil.

Suggestions please as to what to plant to over next winter

With several pairs of hands available on Saturday, August 13th, we were finally able to re-site the water tank atop the pallets which means that filling the watering cans is no longer so back-breaking, tricky or wasteful! We had to completely empty the tank of water to do so but this just meant that all our trees got a good soaking. Dominic has also re-set the guttering and will extend this to accommodate the run-off from the gazebo roof – we are now all set for any amount of rain over this winter.



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UNFINISHED ACTIONS:

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

Two pallets are now available to be put to use, possibly with an additional two, making a large-scale composter?

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME:

Pip made a presentation to the **Hastings & Rother 'Health in Mind' Locality Group** (one of the sub-groups of the Clinical Commissioning Group in Hastings) on August 11th. As with the earlier talk given to the WI (Landgate), there was a lot of interest from the assembled professionals, all of whom work in the Adult Social Care sector. With a growing emphasis on 'personal well-being' this bodes well for the future use of the Garden.

We will be having a stall at the **2016 RAA Flower & Vegetable Show** in Rye on August 20th – it's at the Community Centre on Conduit Hill, open to the public from 2-4pm. Do please come and enjoy the various displays. This year, we'll be able to display some of our own produce as well as the revised and enlarged Garden Design.

RVA MENTORING SERVICE

Derek Stevens' verdict: 'We're doing really well'!!

2016/2017 PROJECTS:

Compost Toilet: over this winter, the Steering Group will be researching suitable self-maintaining plumbing kits and also installation costs.

Pond: although not strictly a Community Garden project, we are hoping that progress will be made on this in the near future – if only because creating suitable access paths will need to run in tandem with work on the compost toilet.

Gazebo: willow screening; floor layering with hard core and wood chippings

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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WORK SESSIONS:

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

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

So, in August & September, the scheduled sessions will be:

Tuesdays: August 30th; September 6th & 20th

Saturdays, August 28th (August Bank Holiday week-end!!) September 10th & 24th

Q3/4 ACTION LIST

- **Volunteer to lead dated (and advertised) work sessions**
- Put up ladybird house (a donation from John & Helen Griffiths)
- Weeding of new hedge
- On-going clearance of brambles from the willows adjacent to the new gazebo
- On-going thinning of these willows*
- Gazebo willow* screening and floor layering
- Digging of raised beds to clear remnants of 2016 produce
- Digging over of sunflower bed
- Clearance of accumulated rubbish – possibly, a bonfire
- 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!